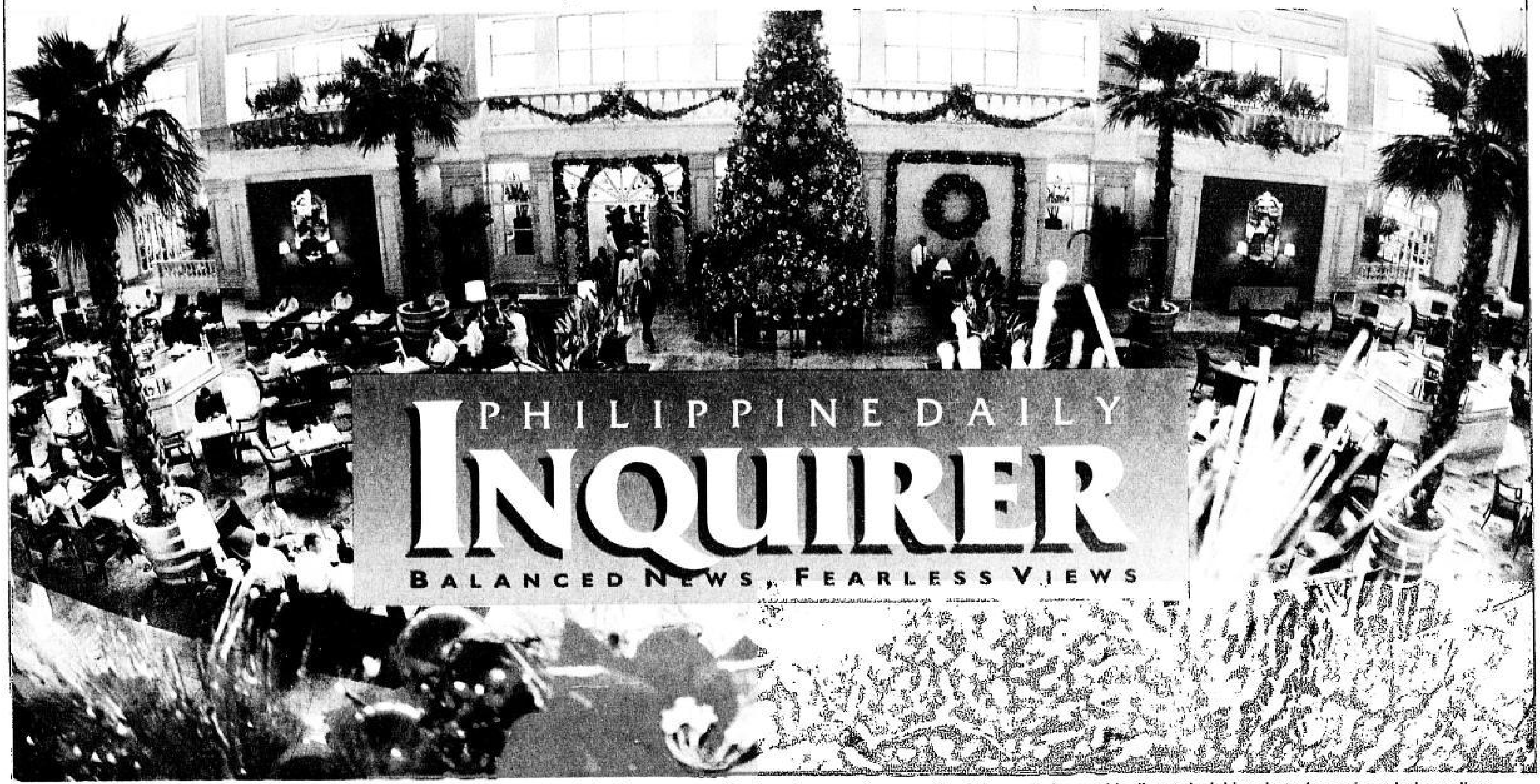
Tuesday, December 4, 2007 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 359 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS



LIKE IT NEVER HAPPENED. The Peninsula, the "jewel" of Metro Manila's hotel circuit, reopens on Monday, after spending some P5 million replacing marble tiles at the lobby, plastering and repainting walls to obliterate bullet marks from the assault five days ago. *(See story below.)* EDWIN BACASMAS

ABS-CBN tapes sought

PNP order decried as attack on free press

By Volt Contreas

IN A MOVE A TOP ABS-CBN news executive said could be an attempt to scare the media, the Philippine National Police yesterday ordered the network giant to submit its raw news footage of Thursday's march by rebel soldiers on the Peninsula Manila hotel and the ensuing standoff.

The media giant's dramatic, hour-by-hour coverage of the seven-hour standoff had raised questions among investigators, including suggestions that the network might have known in advance about the uprising.

"You are commanded to appear before the office of the Southern Metro Manila Criminal Investigation and Detection Team ... on Dec. 5, 2007 at 10 o'clock in the morning and bring with you a DVD copy of raw video footage [of the]

ABS-CBN/ A8

Trillanes, 35 others charged with rebellion

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE YESterday filed rebellion charges against Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and 34 other military officers, Church officials and civilians in connection with the takeover of the Peninsula Manila hotel last week.

Also named in the charge sheet filed in the Makati Regional Trial Court were Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, Bishop Emeritus Julio Labayen, Fr. Robert Reyes, former University of the Philippines president Francisco Nemenzo, artist Elizabeth Orteza Siguion-Reyna and Antonio Trillanes III, a brother of the senator.

No bail was recommended for the accused although Guingona, 79, was hospitalized due to an unspecified ailment and Labayen, 81, was freed upon the intercession of Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines president Angel Lagdameo.

Fourteen others were released pending further investigation.

Police said they were hunting at least four other officers who escaped after taking over the hotel on Thursday, including Marine Capt. Nicanor Faeldon, who had been implicated in past coup attempts. The government has put up a P1-million reward for Faeldon's capture.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez issued a hold-departure order on 50 persons named in an earlier police complaint in connection with the seven-hour Peninsula standoff. They included those named in the charge sheet and those temporarily released.

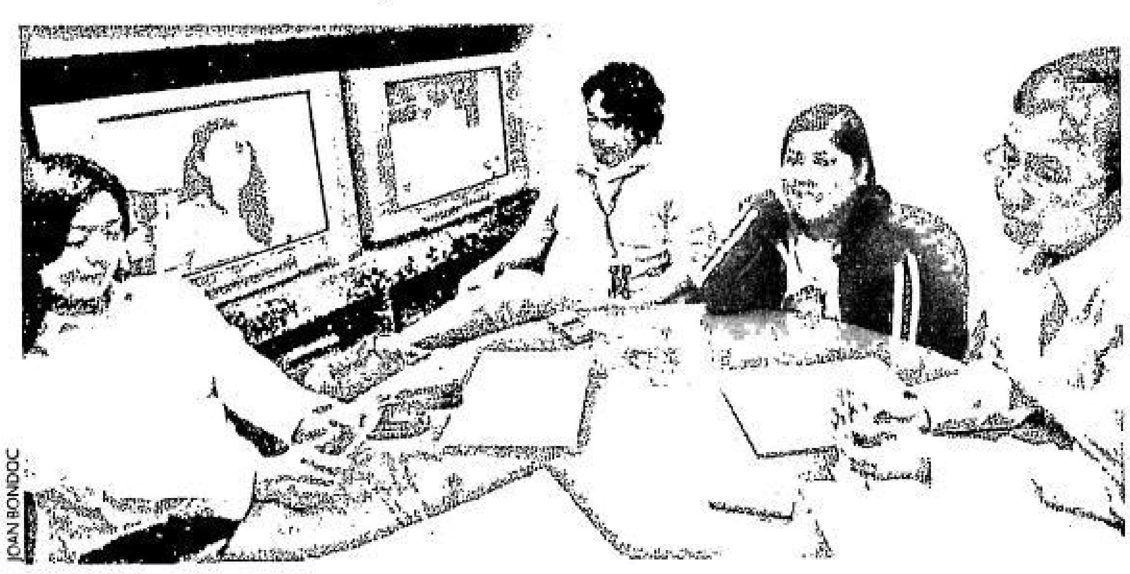
In a resolution, a DOJ panel led by Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco dismissed claims that the hotel takeover was a spontaneous act following the walkout by Trillanes and Lim from a Makati court hearing.

"The civilian respondents' act in waiting for the group of Trillanes in Manila Peninsula hotel and eventually joining them while disregarding police advice, evading police blockade ... on-

TRILLANES/ A4

SEN. ANTONIO Trillanes IV finds himself in deeper trouble with the filing of rebellion charges against him on Monday.

'If I knew, I wouldn't have worn heels'



JOAN BONDOC

ABS-CBN tells the INQUIRER their story on the Peninsula Manila standoff on Monday at the network's office in Quezon City. From left, Ces Drilon, Rupert Ambil, Melanie Masecampo and Maria Ressa.

By Norman Bordadora

NEWS ANCHOR CES DRILON HAD a simple answer to police insinuations that the ABS-CBN network had advance knowledge of the mutiny staged last week by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV.

"If I knew what was going to happen, I wouldn't have worn heels," said Drilon, who marched, huffing, with Trillanes and a band of soldiers from the Makati City Hall to the Peninsula Manila, where the group called for the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"She also wouldn't have worn that animal print headband," ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC) anchor Pinky Webb added with a laugh, referring

IF I KNEW/ A8

Puno, cops summoned over media harassment

By Jocelyn R. Uy and Christine O. Avendaño

THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN Rights is set to summon Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno and Philippine National Police officials in response to a National Press Club complaint that journalists were illegally arrested in the aftermath of Thursday's hotel standoff.

The CHR expects PNP Director General Avelino Razon Jr. and Metro Manila Police Director Geary Barias to attend a

PUNO/ A8

Peninsula's Christmas tree glows again

By DJ Yap

THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE lobby of the Peninsula Manila hotel yesterday to indicate that it was the scene of a bizarre coup attempt in Makati City five days ago.

Gone were the elite SWAT teams that stormed the luxury hotel on Thursday to end a seven-hour standoff with a handful of mutinous troops who called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down. Gone too was the yellow police tape that ringed the main entrance.

The hotel's grand staircase had been cleaned of debris and

PENINSULA'S/ A4

SPANISH JUNKET

37 lawmakers join GMA party; who's paying for their trip?

By Christian V. Esguerra, Tarra Quismundo, Norman Bordadora in Manila and Michael Lim Ubac in Madrid

WHO ARE THE LAWMAKERS now with President Macapagal-Arroyo on her three-country tour of Europe—and who paid for their trip?

Heeding the request of an opposition lawmaker, Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday released the list of his colleagues who joined the presidential visits to France, Spain and the United Kingdom. *(See complete list on Page A13.)*

Leading the 34-strong congressional delegation was Deputy Speaker Amelita "Girlie" Villarosa, one of the President's most trusted lieutenants who had earlier admitted distributing cash gifts in Malacañang on Oct. 11.

The list also showed that Quezon City Rep. Mary Ann Susano was traveling with a certain Evangeline Evangelista while Masbate Rep. Rizalina Seachon-Lanete was with her son Mayor Joshur.

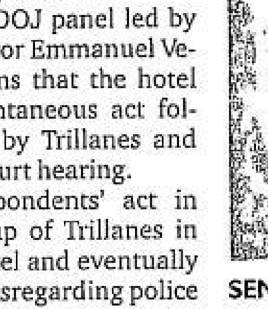
It was also one of the year's largest presidential delegations to book a chartered flight.

A contingent of close to 200 individuals left with Ms Arroyo and her family on Saturday night on board a chartered Philippine Airlines plane to France, Spain and the United Kingdom. They included Cabinet members, three senators, 34 representatives and a few of their family members.

The PAL flight had 192 passengers on board, according to, the flight manifest obtained by the INQUIRER.

Ms Arroyo's other foreign trips this year had entourages of no more than 100 individuals.

37 LAWMAKERS/ A13



JPE, Ping tangle over 2 new Palace choppers

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo is either too tired or scared to ride in old choppers because her office bought, not one, but two new Bell helicopters at P634 million each, so she could

JPE, PING/ A13

UN kicks off global warming meet in Bali

BALI, INDONESIA—FACED with melting polar ice caps and worsening droughts, climate experts at a massive United Nations conference on Monday urged quick action toward a new international pact that would stem the increasingly destructive rise in world temperatures.

A key goal of the two-week conference, which opened with delegates from nearly 190 countries in attendance, will be to draw a skeptical United States into an agreement to cut emis-

UN KICKS OFF/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Second
FRONTPAGE

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2007

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The eastern sections of Luzon and Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/12/03/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

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(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening
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This time, Danding loses case

Sandigan junks anew Cojuangco bid for 72% of UCPB

By Jocelyn R. Uy

FOOD AND BEVERAGE TYcoon Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. has failed anew to recover his shares in United Coconut Planters Bank which were believed to have been illegally acquired using the coconut levy funds.

In a nine-page resolution, the Sandiganbayan First Division junked Cojuangco's motion for reconsideration seeking a reversal of the partial summary judgment the court issued in July 2003 affirming the government's ownership of 72.2 percent of the shares in UCPB.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) estimated the value of the shares at P100 billion in 2003.

Last week, the Sandiganbayan handed Cojuangco a victory, however, when it dismissed a case filed by the PCGG seeking to recover from the businessman 20 percent of the shares in food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp., which Cojuangco heads as chair, and which were alleged to be owned by the coconut farmers.

"The points raised by Cojuangco have already been passed upon in the resolutions of this court, including the court's partial summary judgment, and more particularly the resolution of June 5, 2007 ," the Sandiganbayan said.

In the June 5 ruling, the Sandiganbayan concluded the forfeiture of Cojuangco's shares in UCPB by making the case "final and appealable" to the Supreme Court.

The Sandiganbayan also reiterated in its latest resolution that it could no longer grant Cojuangco a full-blown trial for lack of "triable issues" that would "necessitate the presentation of evidence by the parties respecting their allegations and defenses."

In his petition to overturn the court's earlier rulings, Cojuangco maintained that he was the rightful owner of the UCPB shares as shown by a May 1975 agreement signed by himself and Sen. Edgardo Angara, former attorney-in-fact of the then UCPB owner, the late Pedro Cojuangco.

But the court dismissed his claim and stated that this had already been settled in the partial summary judgment it rendered in 2003.

Also, it affirmed anew its earlier pronouncement that Presidential Decree 755 issued by the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos authorizing the Philippine Coconut Authority to buy a bank using the coconut levy funds for the benefit of the Filipino coconut farmers was illegal.

The PCA was created by Presidential Decree 232 on June 30, 1973, to develop the coconut industry. Its governing board was chaired by then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile with Cojuangco and the late Maria Clara Lobregat as members.

The PCA controlled 72.2 percent of UCPB in 1975 but the government sequestered 94.2 percent of the bank.

Erap judge goes to SC

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE NEWEST JUSTICE OF THE Supreme Court was the head of the Sandiganbayan special division that convicted deposed President Joseph Estrada of plunder in September.

Justice Teresita Leonardo-de Castro was appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Cancio Garcia in October.

De Castro will take her oath before Chief Justice Reynato Puno this morning, according to the high court's spokesperson, Jose Midas Marquez.

De Castro was the presiding justice of the Sandiganbayan since 2005. She also headed the antigraft court's special division that found Estrada guilty of plunder after a lengthy trial and sentenced him to 40 years in prison.

Estrada, however, was pardoned by President Arroyo shortly after.

This was the second time De Castro was nominated to the Supreme Court. The first time was after Justice Romeo Callejo retired in April. She was one of two nominees who got the highest number of votes in the Judicial and Bar Council which recommends judicial appointees to the President.

De Castro graduated from the University of the Philippines College of Law in 1972 and was in the top five of her class.

Comelec can't purge 2M from voters' list

By Beverly T. Natividad

THE COMMISSION OF ELECTIONS has yet to cleanse the voters list of some two million "double registrants," a senior official of the Comelec said yesterday.

Ferdinand Rafanan, Comelec director for the National Capital Region, said many of the double listings occurred because voters changed residence but failed to cancel their registration.

"I don't have the accurate figure but more or less my estimate is two million," said Rafanan in an interview with INQUIRER.

Rafanan said the poll body is having difficulty weeding out these double registrants because it would involve individual petitions for exclusion in courts.

"For me, this is not only an impossible solution but also an impractical one," said Rafanan.

The Comelec does not have enough manpower to file and attend court hearings for all two million double registrants, he added.

Rafanan said he believes the Comelec as a collegial body has the authority to order the cancellation of the second registration even without securing a court order.

However, there are some legal interpretations that say the blanket cancellation of the second and subsequent registrations may impede a citizen's right to vote; that case-to-case petitions may be necessary.

Rafanan reminded voters that the correct procedure to take when transferring residences is to ask the election officers in their new locations to transfer their first registrations, and not to register anew.

For example, a voter who previously lived in Manila then moved to Quezon City must ask the QC election officer to transfer his old registration to his new location.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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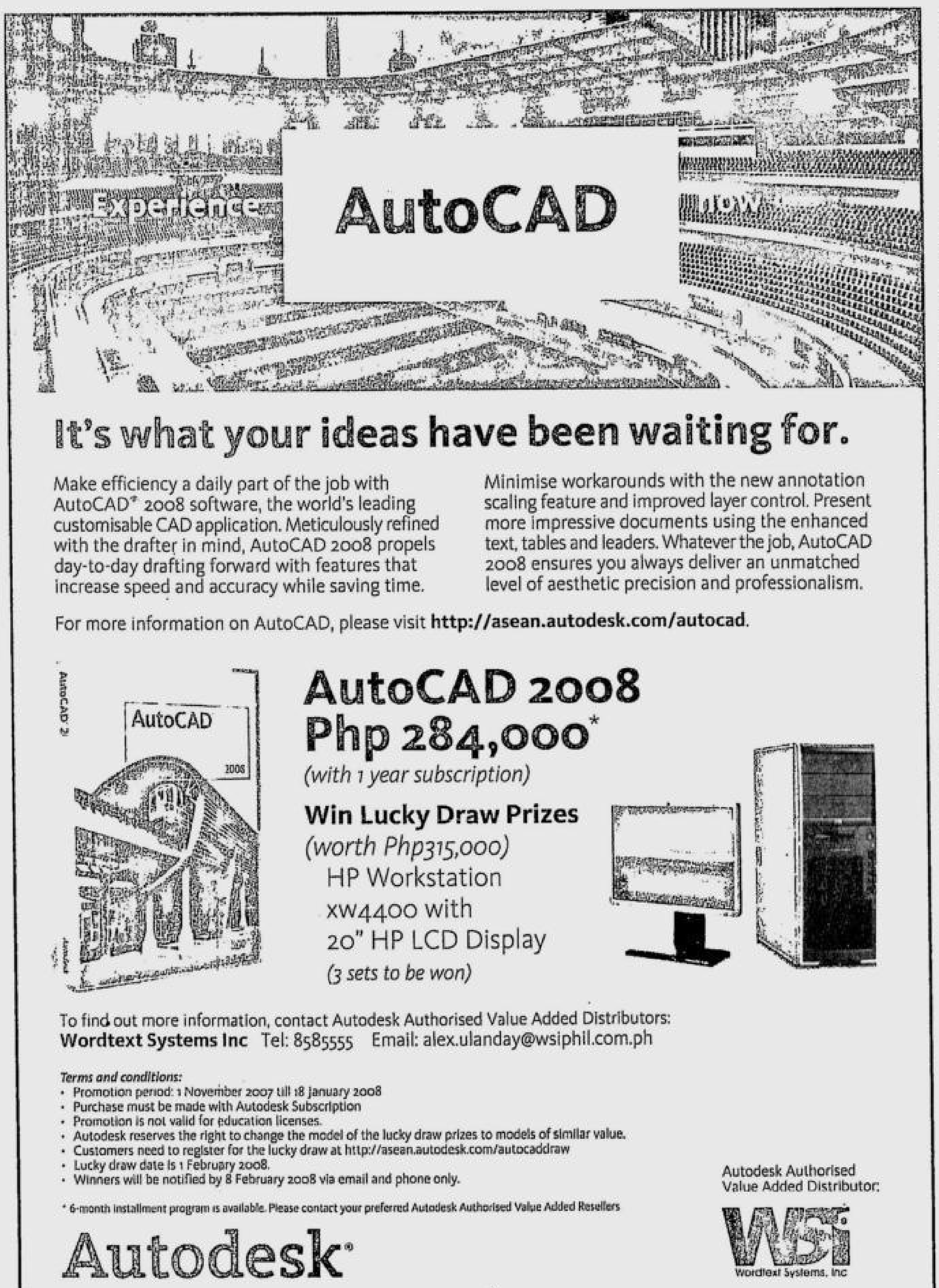
▨ **2 PINAYS**
charged in HK human trafficking case
/A7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Peso's big rise gives OFW kin headaches

MANILA'S MALLS ARE ABUZZ WITH Christmas carols and glitzy decorations but Marlene Isleta has little festive cheer.

A strong Philippine peso and a weak US dollar means that Isleta has less cash in her pocket after receiving the remittance money her husband, a waiter on a luxury cruise ship, sends her every month.

"The money is really tight. Christmas is just another day for me. I'll be hiding from my godchildren that day," she said, on a break from her office job in Manila's financial district.

Isleta's husband is one of an estimated 8 million Filipinos, or around 10 percent of the population, who work overseas due to a lack of opportunities at home and whose remittances have driven the domestic economy to a 20-year high.

Best performing

The Philippines is the fourth-largest recipient of remittances in the world after India, Mexico and China.

Overseas Filipino Workers, treated to their own visa line at Manila's international airport, have fueled a local spending boom through their payments, estimated to hit a new record of $14.7 billion this year, 15 percent higher than last year's peak.

The monthly inflows have also made the peso Asia's best performing currency this year, up nearly 15 percent against the dollar.

But this means that overseas workers' foreign currency salaries are translating into less pesos and these workers are having to send home more money every month to provide the same amount of pesos for their families' fixed monthly budgets.

Many remittances still come from the United States, but there are also significant flows from countries which have a dollar peg, such as Hong Kong and Gulf states.

The peso has also risen over 8 percent against sterling since the start of the year and two percent against the euro.

To make ends meet, Filipinos based overseas are taking on second jobs, working overtime or getting loans. Back home, families often have to cut back on spending.

Work, work, work

In Manteca California, Donato Tino works overtime at two jobs to send an extra $200 a month home to his wife and two children.

The 38-year-old works in a petrol station and an electronics firm. In the Philippines, he was an X-ray technician but he would need to retrain to get employment in a US hospital.

"I don't have time to study. I have to work and work," Tino said in a telephone interview.

The central bank has tried to temper the peso's rise but it has run up its biggest loss in over a decade doing so and the cost of keeping the currency in check is now too expensive.

The government has cut wharfage fees and removed travel tax for exporters but it's little consolation and exporters have slashed growth estimates for this year to 4.5-5.5 percent from an original forecast of 10 percent.

Reuters

Batasan blast suspect out on bail

By Alcuin Papa

FORMER TUBURAN, BASILAN MAYOR Hadjarun Jamiri was released from the Camp Crame custodial center past 7 p.m. last night after filing bail.

His lawyer, Eduardo Ariba, said he posted an P80,000 bail bond for charges of murder and frustrated murder in connection with the Nov. 13 Batasan bombing

Ariba said his client is denying the involvement of Mujib and Benjamin Hataman, and former Basilan Rep. Gerry Salappudin in the bombing. They will file the necessary pleadings at the next hearing.

Ariba added that his client's affidavit detailing the supposed involvement of the Hatamans and Salappudin in the bombing was "signed involuntarily. He was forced to sign that affidavit."

Five persons, including Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar, died in the blast and several others were wounded.

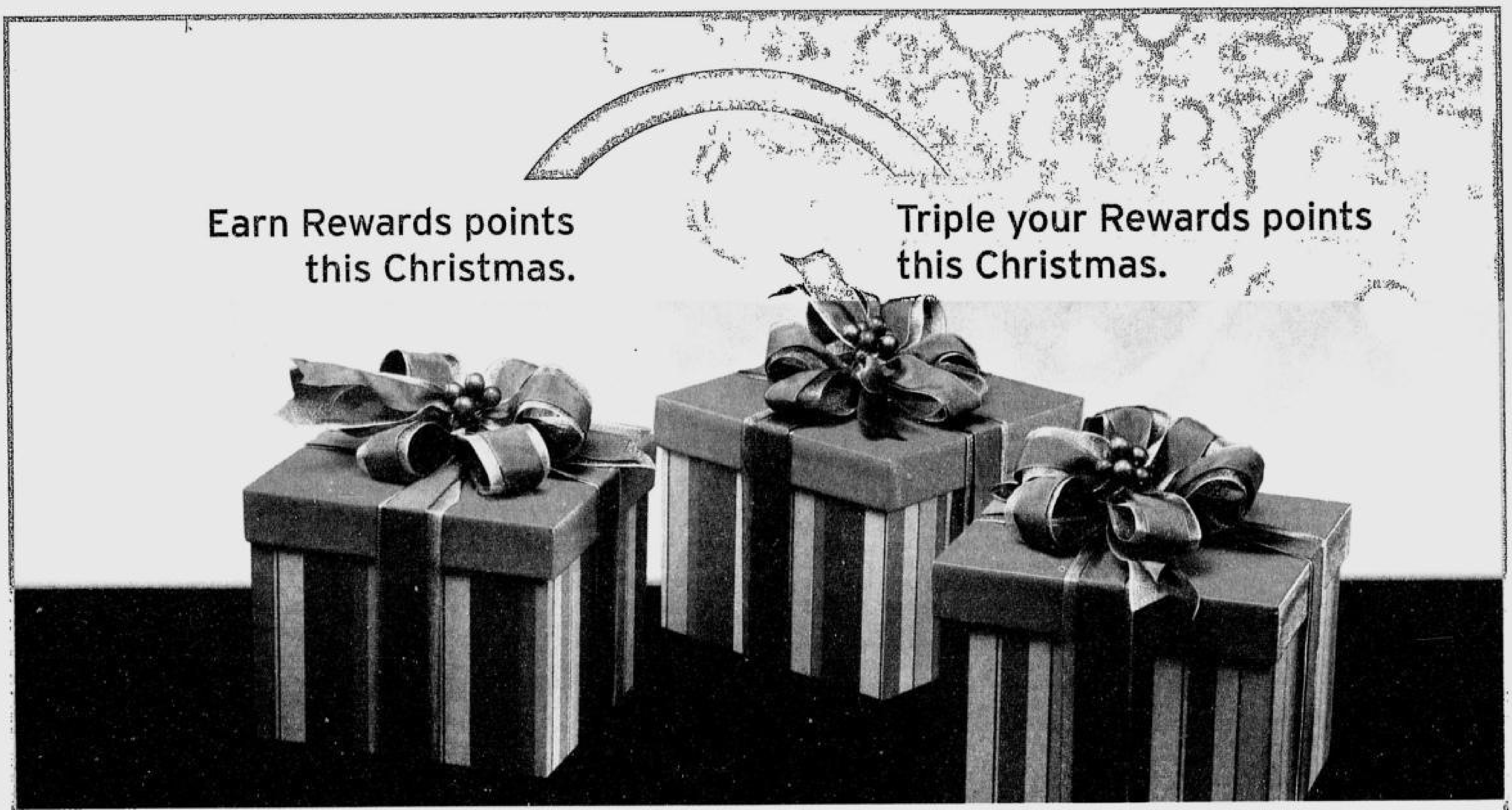
Where's Bedol? ARMM police chief told to explain to Comelec

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS has asked the police chief of Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) to explain his failure to arrest Maguindanao election supervisor Lintang Bedol.

The Comelec has invited Chief Supt. Joel R. Goltiao, the PNP regional director of the ARMM, to face the poll body on Dec. 11 and explain why he was not able to serve the warrant of arrest on Bedol, which the Comelec issued on Oct. 23.

The warrant of arrest was based on the Comelec's August 2007 ruling which found him guilty of indirect contempt. His conviction was based, among other things, on his failure to appear before the Comelec despite repeated summons to answer questions on alleged cheating activities in Maguindanao.

Goltiao was not able to serve the warrant of arrest to the Maguindanao poll supervisor claiming in a Nov. 2 report to the Comelec that police were not able to track him down in Maguindanao. *Beverly T. Natividad*



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Rebel with wacky wig identified as Binay security man

By DJ Yap

THE REBEL SOLDIER WITH THE wacky wig in last week's takeover of the Peninsula Manila hotel in Makati was a security escort of Mayor Jejomar Binay.

Binay, who heads the United Opposition (UNO), himself admitted yesterday that former Army Cpl. Elmer Colon was one of the City Hall employees who joined the group of Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, but made it clear that he did not condone the escort's actions and he would be placed under preventive suspension.

"I did not know City Hall employees would be there. I cannot be blamed for actions they took on their own … Let's talk straight here. Just because they joined (Trillanes) shouldn't mean they can start making links (to me)," Binay said.

The city's human resources department also identified one Sonny Madarang as another City Hall security guard who was among those arrested by police, based on the names published in the papers.

Colon, who has remained in hiding, was demoted from technical sergeant in the Army's Scout Rangers for his involvement in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny, which was also led by Trillanes. He retired from the military service in May last year, the INQUIRER learned.

"Believe me when I say that I cannot recognize this person even without his wig on," Binay said in a press conference at City Hall.

BINAY

COLON

Colon was seen on television wearing a wig during the seven-hour hotel standoff and standing behind the rebel leaders when they called for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation.

"From what I was told, he (Colon) did not report for work on that day," the mayor said. "I probably would have asked [him] not to go if he had asked my permission."

Binay said Colon and the other unnamed employees would be suspended, as was customary for those facing criminal charges, once City Hall had verified their identities and job status.

He said he had received information that Colon was assigned to him, but that he could not recognize him in photos shown to him. He said he coordinated matters only with his chief of security.

The mayor said he had been forthright from the start in cooperating with the police officers looking into the alleged involvement of Colon and other city employees.

Binay pointed out that he immediately confirmed to them that Colon was an employee, and that he even volunteered the information that some of the names in the list of civilians who were arrested were City Hall personnel.

While he believed in Trillanes' cause, Binay said he disagreed with his methods.

He shrugged off criticisms over his absence at the Peninsula, saying he felt "left out," as no one from the local or national police had apprised him of developments.

"Why should I squeeze myself where I wasn't wanted?" Binay said.

Trillanes, 35 others charged with rebellion

From page A1

ly shows their concerted effort and intention to coalesce with them toward the attainment of a common objective," it said.

"Thus, their participation cannot be viewed as merely spontaneous and isolated, on the contrary, (it) reveal(s) a conspiracy and mutual intention to overthrow the government," the panel said.

Elements of rebellion

The DOJ panel also said the elements of rebellion were present when the group took up arms against the government, led a public uprising and announced that they were ousting President Macapagal-Arroyo to form a new government.

The panel noted that the statement read by Lim, former commander of a Scout Ranger Regiment, after he arrived at the Peninsula called for a change in leadership and for the military and the police to withdraw their support from Ms Arroyo.

It said that Guingona, in apparent "anticipation of their victory," raised a toast and said "This is like Edsa."

"The foregoing bears the earmark of public uprising and taking up arms against the government," the panel said.

"Walking out of the court in the midst of the trial and having themselves surrounded by armed men in public does not only display respondents' contumacious act of disrespect to the court but also shows their open hostility against the government," the panel said.

A copy of Lim's statement was found in the hotel. High-powered firearms, ammunition and explosives were recovered at the Peninsula's second floor, the panel said.

Escape plan

Video footage also showed some of the respondents marching to the hotel while calling on people to withdraw support from the government.

Authorities also seized a handwritten note showing Trillanes' escape plan from the Makati court. The notes contain the number of teams and their members, their pre-designated positions, the timeframe, the distribution of firearms, the route they were going to take and the rules of engagement in case of a confrontation.

"This 'escape plan' clearly shows premeditated planning by the respondents. This was hatched not only by the military respondents headed by Lim and Trillanes but also in coordination with the civilian respondents," the panel said.

Threat remains

Gonzalez said that although the 36 accused, plus John and Jane Does, were charged with rebellion, some of them could be later found to be accomplices or accessories.

Gonzalez said the threat from the supporters or followers of those behind the siege of the Peninsula remained.

"We don't know if there are sleepers in their ranks. We need more intelligence on the part of the armed forces, the police, most especially the armed forces because these people are under them," he said.

Gonzalez said that Trillanes could not be considered as someone who had been discarded because he had followers, including some military officers.

But he also said Trillanes had probably begun to "hallucinate" considering that had the revolt succeeded, Trillanes and Lim would have led the transition government, based on documents recovered from the hotel.

Gonzalez said that some of those named in the police complaint were Senate employees who were just told to go to the hotel and were prevented from leaving during the siege.

Those ordered released were El Cid Fajardo, Herman Tiu Laurel, Leonido Toledo Jr., Evangeline Mendoza, Jose Albert, Eduardo Castro, Ferdinand Sandoval, Julio Ancheta, Stella Guingona, Maamor Lanto, Romeo Dacles, Ryan Custodio, Edgardo Tulalay and Ray Linaac.

Gonzalez said authorities were checking a "money trail" to determine the identities of those who had bankrolled the hotel takeover. He also said the possible "complicity" of the Makati City government in the hotel siege was being checked.

"No adventurism of this nature will happen if there are no people behind who will be funding them," he told reporters.

Gonzalez linked the money men to the people reportedly recruited from Metro Manila communities for P200 each and who were to be transported outside the Peninsula Manila to support the soldiers and civilians who had holed up inside.

"We want to know who were the funders or who were the conduits of the funders to them. Unfortunately, these people now are hiding. We cannot get anybody from Parola or from Payatas anymore," he said.

Weapons

Gonzalez said that based on witness' accounts, the guns appeared to have been hidden in the Makati City Hall bathrooms because the people involved in the incident were seen going to and fro the bathroom and the courtroom prior to the walkout.

"If it is true there were weapons that were smuggled inside the building, with Mayor (Jejomar) Binay even having reported to the police he has death threats, how could these firearms have been smuggled inside?" he said.

Gonzalez also wondered how the firearms were brought to the Peninsula.

"Was there a connivance with the security of Manila Peninsula? Why is that when Trillanes arrived at the Manila Peninsula, all the cameras were already in place?" he asked.

As for the reported investigation of the participation of the media, he said journalists would only be held responsible if they were shown to have connived with those who had participated in the takeover.

Charged with rebellion

- Former Vice President Teofisto T. Guingona Jr.
- Sen. Antonio F. Trillanes IV
- Brig. Gen. Danilo P. Lim
- Bishop Julio Labayen
- Rev. Father Robert P. Reyes
- Capt. Gary C. Alejano
- Capt. Segundino P. Orfiano Jr.
- LTSG Manuel DG Cabochan
- LTSG James A. Layug
- LTJG Arturo Pascua Jr.
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- Antonio F. Trillanes III
- Myrna H. Buendia
- Dominador E. Rull Jr.
- Romeo C. Solis
- Roel J. Gadon
- Rommel R. Loreto
- Julian L. Advincula
- Francisco N. Bosi
- Leodor G. Dela Cruz
- Sonny B. Madarang
- Elizabeth O. Siguion-Reyna
- Francisco C. Peñaflor, and
- John and Jane Does

Ordered released for further investigation

- El Cid C. Fajardo
- Herman T. Laurel
- Leonido Toledo Jr.
- Evangeline B. Mendoza
- Jose A. Albert
- Eduardo R. Castro
- Ferdinand P. Sandoval
- Julio Y. Ancheta
- Stella D. Guingona
- Maamor D. Lanto
- Romeo S. Dacles
- Ryan Z. Custodio
- Edgardo Tulaylay, and
- Ray A. Linaac

Peninsula's Manila Christmas tree glows again

From page A1

wreckage. A glass door shattered by an armored personnel carrier had been boarded up with cream-colored planks and decorated with a large Christmas wreath of poinsettias and golden bells.

A giant Christmas tree once again dominated the ornate lobby where guests sipped coffee or tinkered with their laptops in opulent lounges with fine linen dinner settings. A pianist played Christmas tunes on a grand piano on the mezzanine floor as a stream of guests checked in.

"It's a very beautiful hotel," said Ying Lian Wu, a tourist from Jianxi, China, who is enjoying a weeklong vacation with her family.

"No fear. Why do we need to fear?" she said when asked if she was concerned about what last week's tumultuous events.

"It's great to be back … it's like a second home," said American Ramon Linan, a Northwest Airlines flight steward.

Back in business

The Peninsula, considered the "jewel" of Metro Manila's hotel circuit, is back in business.

"While last Thursday's events were certainly a confusing and distressing experience for everyone, we are extremely pleased that everything is back to normal," said David Batchelor, the general manager.

Batchelor said the hotel had spent about P5 million replacing marble tiles at the lobby and plastering and repainting walls to obliterate bullet marks and other signs of the assault.

Total losses for the Peninsula are estimated at P46 million from lost business and the cost of the repairs.

Batchelor placed hotel occupancy at 51 percent but said this was expected to hit 68 percent by Thursday. The hotel was 90 percent booked when a handful of mutinous troops barged in last week.

Markets unfazed

Financial markets also appeared unfazed by last week's mutiny. The stock market ended 1.35 percent up at 3,626.88 points while the peso surged to 42.32 against the dollar, up from a close of 42.75 on Thursday. *(See story in Business, Page B1).*

"The coup was just a sort of a press conference with no real threat," said Astro del Castillo, director of the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines.

"Today, the government is in control, there is no clear and present danger. There are also things to cheer about, for example there is a possibility of another US rate cut and oil prices are down."

Peter Wallace, president of a consultancy firm, said events like the botched coup were part of the rough-and-tumble politics of the Philippines but it could have some effect on direct investment.

"It's certainly going to cause them to pause in their thinking," Wallace said. "It's not the local guy, it's the head office back in America or London, where they really don't understand these kind of shenanigans.

"Someone in London watching BBC News, seeing the front of what's supposed to be a very safe five-star hotel just wiped off, is going to say, hey my board isn't going to allow this investment."

Tourism unscathed

But Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano, who graced the Peninsula's reopening, said he didn't expect the failed mutiny to have any long-term effect on the country's tourism industry.

In fact, Durano said, tour operators had reported no cancellations of group tours until the end of the year. He voiced confidence the number of foreign tourist arrivals to still hit three million this year.

To show that things have returned to normal, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said he and Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon would meet at the Peninsula soon.

Even while troops remained on red alert in Metro Manila and nearby provinces, Esperon yesterday left for a three-day trip to Malaysia to attend an international aerospace and maritime exhibit. He was accompanied by his wife Lorna and other military officials. *With reports by Tarra Quismundo and Reuters*

UN kicks off global warming meet in Bali

From page A1

sions of carbon dioxide and other so-called greenhouse gases.

The US delegation declared it would not be a "roadblock" to a new agreement, but Washington remains opposed to steps many other countries support, such as mandatory emissions cuts by rich nations and a target for limiting the rise in global temperatures.

The US position suffered a blow on Monday when the new Australian prime minister signed papers to ratify the Kyoto Protocol climate pact. The move leaves the United States—the world's top emitter of greenhouse gases—as the sole industrial power not to have joined.

Conference leaders urged delegates to move quickly to combat climate change.

"The eyes of the world are upon you. There is a huge responsibility for Bali to deliver," Yvo de Boer, the executive secretary of the conference, said. "The world now expects a quantum leap forward."

Dramatic action

The conference kicked off amid growing global momentum for dramatic action to stop rising temperatures that scientists say could lead to swamping of coastal areas and islands by higher oceans, the wiping out of species, economic havoc and a spike in natural disasters such as storms, fires and droughts.

The Bali meeting will be the first major conference of its kind since former US Vice President Al Gore—due to arrive next week—and a UN scientific council won the Nobel Peace Prize in October for their environmental work.

The immediate aim will be to launch negotiations toward a pact to replace the Kyoto Protocol when it expires in 2012, and set an agenda for the talks and a deadline. The United Nations says such an agreement should be concluded by 2009 in order to have a system in place in time.

Among the most contentious issues ahead will be whether emission cuts should be mandatory or voluntary.

Also to be tackled will be to what extent up-and-coming economies like China and India will have to rein in their skyrocketing emissions, and how to help the world's poorest countries adapt to a worsening climate.

US on the defensive

The American delegation was clearly on the defensive in Bali, presenting a statement detailing the ways the United States is fighting global warming without submitting to mandatory emissions targets.

"We're not here to be a roadblock," insisted Harlan L. Watson, the senior US climate negotiator. "We're committed to a successful conclusion, and we're going to work very constructively to make that happen."

Confronted with the scientific reports of the past year, the administration of US President George W. Bush has signaled a willingness to play a larger role in the negotiations, and UN officials agree the Bali conference must craft a post-Kyoto framework that Washington will go along with.

Australia abandoned the anti-Kyoto alliance with the United States on Monday when new Prime Minister Kevin Rudd signed the paperwork to ratify the pact.

Delegates in Bali erupted in applause when Australia's delegate, Howard Bamsey, told the plenary that Canberra was jumping on board.

"I think that the long applause reflected people's appreciation for the courage shown by Australia to take this dramatically different position to engage even more strongly with the international community on the question of climate change," De Boer said.

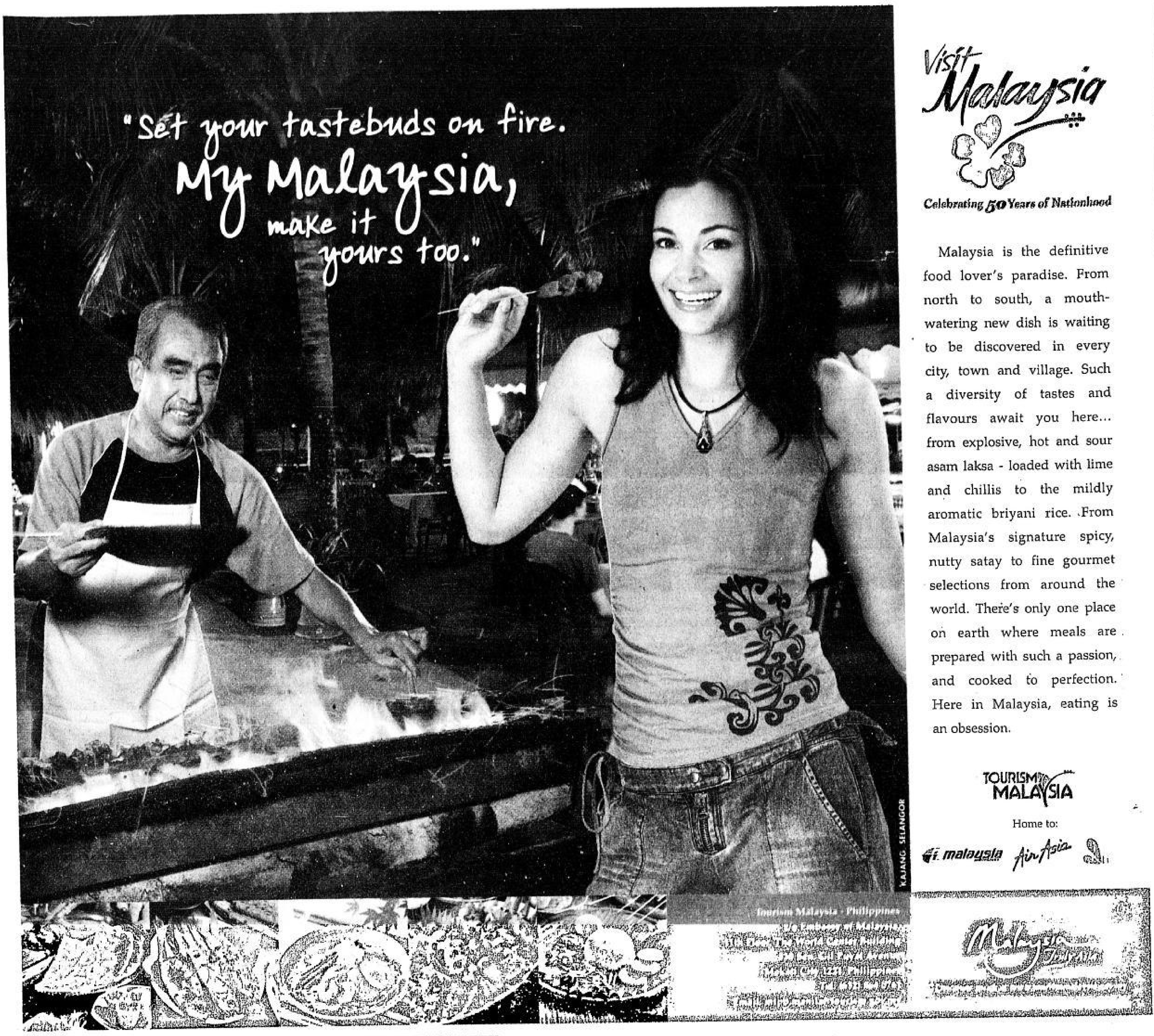
Growing int'l momentum

Environmentalists at the conference cited what they saw as growing international momentum for tougher safeguards against global warming. Even critics of the Bush administration pointed out that many individual American states, such as California, were on the forefront of cutting emissions.

"Despite the failure of the current president to take serious action on global warming, the political landscape in the United States is shifting dramatically in favor of mandatory limits on global warming pollution," said Alden Meyer of the Union of Concerned Scientists, citing upcoming action in the US Congress.

Trying to fend off charges that America is not doing enough, Bush said last week a final Department of Energy report showed US emissions of carbon dioxide, a leading greenhouse gas, declined by 1.5 percent last year while the economy grew.

The Bali meeting comes after a Nobel Prize-winning UN network of scientists issued a landmark report concluding the level of carbon and other heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions must be stabilized by 2015 and decline from there to stave off the worst effects of climate change. AP



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Source: Nielsen Media Index Wave 1
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2 Pinays charged in HK human trafficking case

By Philip C. Tubeza

HONG KONG—THE TRIAL OF two Filipinas in what government officials said was a "landmark" human trafficking case began here Monday.

Jennifer B. Nicdao, 27, and Angelita D. Amparado, 39, were charged at the District Court with trafficking in persons and aiding and abetting the breach of condition of stay after they allegedly brought to Hong Kong in July five Filipinas who ended up working as prostitutes in the city's red light district in Wan Chai.

Government prosecutor Edward Le Breton Laskey said the two women were the first Filipinas charged with human trafficking outside the Philippines. The accused pleaded not guilty to the charges and their trial is expected to last until Thursday.

"This is the first case that Filipinas were prosecuted outside the Philippines in relation to trafficking of people. This has not happened in Singapore or the Middle East," said Laskey during a break in the hearing.

"I am told that officials in the Philippines, including an adviser to the President, are very interested in this case," he added.

Laskey said that he had handled cases of Thai or Chinese traffickers bringing into Hong Kong women for prostitution but this was the first time that he had encountered Filipinas being charged for the crime.

"This is a landmark case because, if the authorities before charged only the trafficked women they arrested, this time, they're going after the traffickers themselves," said Vice Consul Val Roque, head of the Assistance of Nationals section of the Philippines Consulate.

The five complainants in the case had initially sought the help of the Philippine consulate before going to the police. The police then raided several bars in Wan Chai on Aug. 4 and invited for questioning at least 35 Filipinas, including Nicdao and Amparado.

According to Laskey, a certain Loida approached the first two victims in June and offered them work in Hong Kong.

Loida then introduced the women to Amparado, who allegedly told them that they would work as entertainers in a club, and this could include providing sexual services to customers, so that they could later pay the P60,000 for their plane ticket and their hotel accommodation.

According to one of the victims, the "loan" of P60,000 had to be repaid within three months after they arrived in Hong Kong.

There was supposed to be a written contract and Amparado allegedly even threatened one of the victims that she could end up in jail if she failed to pay up.

"(Amparado) told her that she could earn money by drinking with customers but if she wanted to earn more money and repay the loan quickly, then she should have sex with customers," Laskey said.

The women earned their keep by getting commissions from the drinks their customers bought at the bar or by walking the streets to look for customers who would pay for sex.

Nicdao was arrested on the morning of Aug. 4 and she denied the accusation while Amparado was also arrested on the same day. She refused to answer any question during the police investigation.

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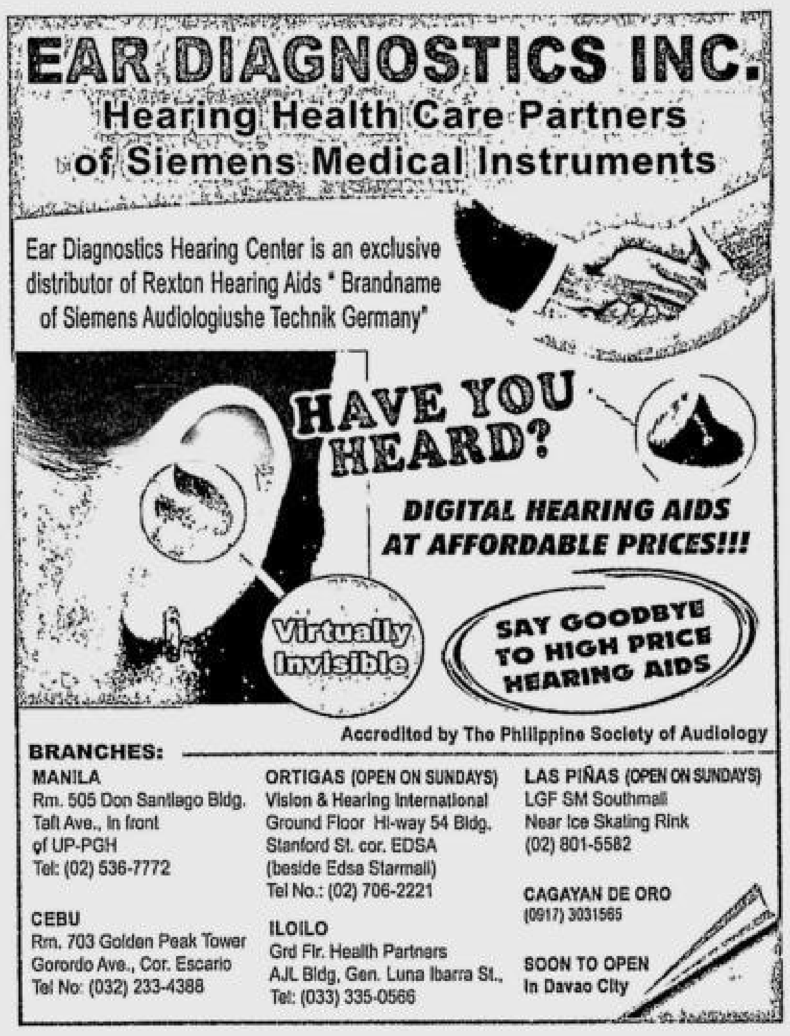
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ABS-CBN tapes sought; PNP order decried as attack on free press

From page A1

TO: MARIA RESSA
Head of ABS-CBN News
and Current Affairs

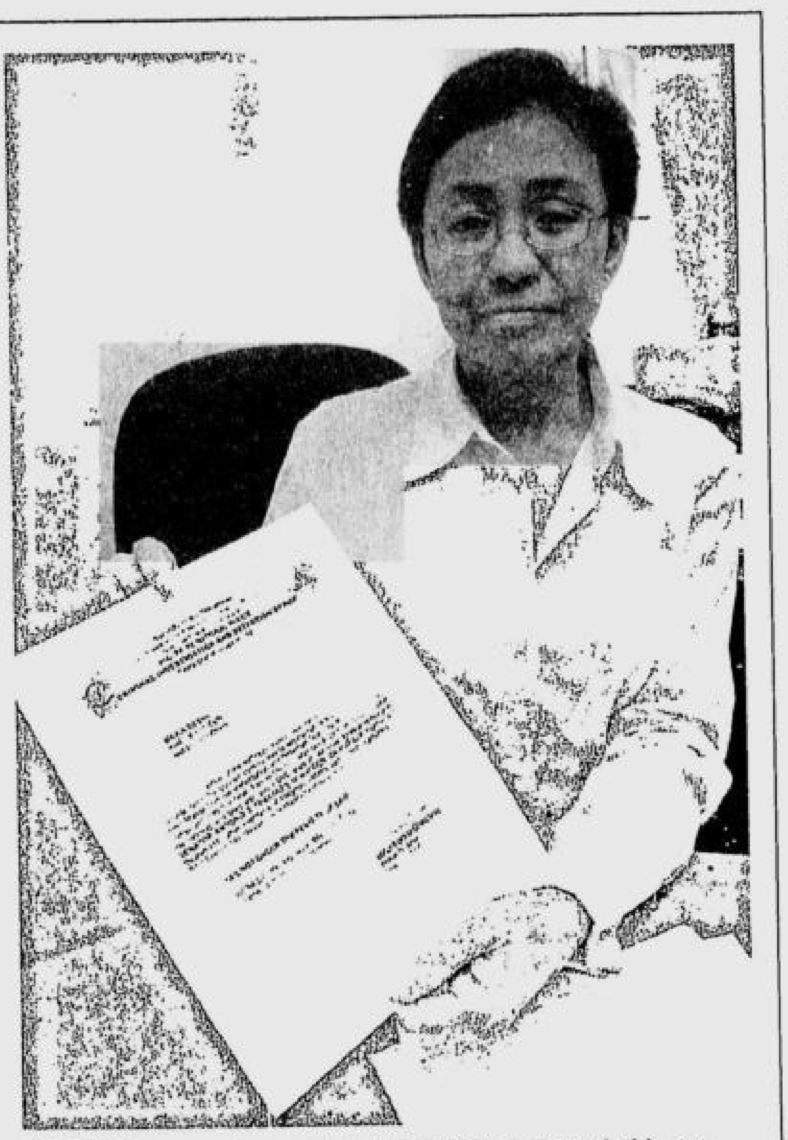
GREETINGS:

By virtue of the authority vested upon me pursuant to Section 6 of Republic Act 5750, you are commanded to appear before the office of Southern Metro Manila Criminal Investigation and Detection Team, NCRCIDU, CIDG SPD Compound, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City on December 5, 2007 at 10:00 o'clock in the morning and bring with you a DVD copy of raw video footage re-March of SENATOR ANTONIO S TRILLANES IV and GEN. DANILO LIM together with thirteen (13) other members of Magdalo soldiers and civilian supporters from RTC, Branch 148, Makati City to Manila Peninsula Hotel.

FAIL NOT UNDER THE PENALTY OF LAW:

WITNESS my signature this 3rd day of December 2007, Camp Crame, Quezon City, Philippines.

EDGARDO M. DOROMAL
Police Director
Director, CIDG



ABS-CBN news and current affairs chief Maria Ressa holds up a copy of the PNP order to appear before police investigators on Wednesday. JOAN BONDOC

March," PNP Director Edgardo Doromal said in his order to Maria Ressa, head of the ABS-CBN news and current affairs department.

"FAIL NOT UNDER THE PENALTY OF LAW," the order said in bold letters.

In a statement, Ressa branded the order as apparently part of a continuing attempt to "intimidate and harass journalists" and indicated a "gradual erosion of press freedom" in the country.

Reached later on the phone, Ressa said the network was still studying its options and had not yet decided whether to comply with the order.

"We want to cooperate but we want to make sure what we are being asked to do," she said, noting that the network had been getting "confusing" signals from the authorities.

A senior government official, speaking to the INQUIRER the other day, had said the refusal of members of the ABS-CBN crew to heed police orders to vacate the hotel raised questions about whether they were there to report a news event or were conspiring with the rebels and "obstructing justice."

The ABS-CBN crew was not the only media group that refused to heed the police ultimatum to withdraw. About 30 other journalists from various organizations also held their ground so they could report to the public what was happening inside the hotel.

ABS-CBN policy

The PNP Criminal Investigation and Detection Group ordered Ressa to appear and produce the video tapes at the Southern Police District headquarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Doromal specifically ordered Ressa to bring with her the raw footage of the march of Trillanes, Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and 13 other members of Magdalo soldiers and civilian supporters.

In an interview earlier yesterday, Ressa, who also furnished the INQUIRER with a copy of the CIDG order, maintained that "as a policy we rarely release raw video."

"What you'll get (is) what was in the public airwaves, what we've aired," she said.

Later in a statement, Ressa insisted that "in no instance did ABS-CBN ever 'obstruct justice' or prevent authorities from taking action in Thursday's standoff in Makati.

"ABS-CBN continued its live coverage because the public has a right to know," she said. "We calculated the risks, took precautions for our team, and made the choice to stay.

"'We did our job—to make sure that whatever actions both sides take, they are accountable to the people," Ressa stressed, adding:

"Statements from law enforcement and government officials now seem confused: As some officials tell us there is no probe on ABS-CBN, I receive a subpoena 'commanding' me to appear at a police hearing on Dec. 5.

Erosion of press freedom

"It seems attempts to intimidate and harass journalists continue. These actions show a gradual erosion of press freedom and degrade our country's democratic processes," Ressa said.

A day after the bloodless siege, the network issued a statement condemning the "illegal arrest" of the more than 30 journalists and cameramen who were inside the hotel during the assault.

Claiming they were acting on suspicions that some rebels had disguised themselves as members of the press, police then manacled some of the journalists and then took all of them to Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan for "processing"—along with the targets of the police assault: Trillanes, the other soldiers and their civilian counterparts.

Ressa said there were 12 ABS-CBN personnel among those arrested, including TV reporter Ces Drilon. The rest were producers, engineers, drivers and researchers.

Ressa reiterated the network's stand that "the arrest of 12 of our journalists along with our other media colleagues is unconstitutional."

'Nothing to hide'

"We have nothing to hide," Ressa said in the interview. "All I can say is we did our jobs. Did the security forces do theirs?

"I feel that some of the questions that have been thrown up (by the investigators)—and which reporters would pick up—are all without basis. I don't know what's suspicious about (my staff) doing their jobs well."

In the same interview held at Ressa's office, Drilon said, "The decision (for the ABS-CBN team) to stay was based on our reading of the situation.

"In previous instances, the (2003) Oakwood mutiny, the 1989 coup, deadlines passed without an assault. And they (the rebels holed up at the Peninsula) had very little arms to put up an effective resistance.

"So where was the danger?" Drilon asked. "If it's tear gas—and our office told us that tear gas will be used and gave as a choice (to leave or stay put)—my instinct was to go to the bathroom and get wet tissues or towels. It was not to leave."

Call for probe

Ressa recalled that when ABS-CBN got a call from the authorities asking that it pull out its news team from the hotel, she conferred with the head of news gathering, Charie Villa.

"What was the danger? We all covered Oakwood, all the different mutinies here. They were not going to bomb the building," she said.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile told reporters the government should look closer into the franchise of television and radio networks to determine whether they had overstepped the boundaries of their broadcast license in their coverage of Trillanes' botched takeover of the Peninsula Manila.

Enrile stressed that unlike the print media, TV and radio networks were covered by more rigid rules because they operated on a franchise granted by Congress, which was why the government had greater control over their operations.

Need to be careful

Enrile said the government should look at the coverage of the standoff by the broadcast networks to determine if they had violated their franchise.

The event was covered by practically all the major TV and radio outlets in its entirety, allowing the Trillanes group to monitor the police assault operations on the hotel's TVs.

Enrile said this was why broadcast stations should be more careful in their coverage, especially if it involved the overthrow of the state.

Enrile said he could not say whether the broadcast stations had indeed violated their franchise.

"This has to be looked into first before we make any conclusions," he said. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

'If I knew, I wouldn't have worn heels'

From page A1

to what Drilon was wearing on her head during the march.

Members of the ABS-CBN news staff spoke to the INQUIRER yesterday to deny allegations that the network had been tipped off about the plan of Trillanes and his group to use the Peninsula to stage their outburst against Ms Arroyo.

A network field producer who was at the hotel explained how ABS-CBN was able to mobilize its resources and personnel quickly and deliver a blow-by-blow account of the Nov. 29 hotel drama.

"The secret was past show biz setups for Star News," Rupert Ambil said, referring to the entertainment segment of the network's TV Patrol news broadcast. "I knew the ins and outs of the hotel," he said.

'We did what we had to do'

"Once or twice, we were able to get ahead because we knew where to go," he added.

Ambil said he was to set up a quick live broadcast of the Peninsula "situation" using the network's outside-broadcast van that had rushed to the scene.

"That's our job. That's what we do," Ambil said.

Maria Ressa, head of ABS-CBN news and current affairs, said it appeared that the network was being investigated for doing the job expected of journalists covering a crucial moment in the country's history.

"We were doing what we needed to do, which is to show the event, a pivotal event that had an effect nationwide," Ressa said in the interview she and those involved in the network's coverage of the Peninsula incident gave at her office.

No basis for suspicions

Did the journalists collude with the alleged mutineers by providing them with the human shields to hold the cops at bay?

"No journalist will choose to die for any newsmaker," Ressa said.

Ambil denied allegations that the ABS-CBN crew had already set up for a live broadcast even before Trillanes, Lim and the Magdalo soldiers arrived and holed up at the hotel.

"The reason why there is suspicion is because they are trying to make it appear that we were already there before the start. In fact, Channel 7 got there first before us. We even arrived late," Ambil said.

Segment producer Melanie Masecampo said Ambil's claim could be verified with the Pen's own executives.

"We asked permission to set up from Grace Lim, (one of) Manila Pen's PRs," Masecampo said.

"When Lim had his presscon (calling for Ms Arroyo's resignation), we had yet to set up," she said.

Long cables

Regarding police remarks that the ABS-CBN group managed to bring in a considerable length of cables—a sign of being prepared—Masecampo said: "We always bring very long cables. Even if we cover in Tanay, we'd have enough cable."

Tanay, Rizal, is where deposed President Joseph Estrada was detained under house arrest. It is also there, in Camp Capinpin, where other rebel officers are now being held. Both were sites of many remote ABS-CBN broadcast setups.

Drilon said she had just arrived at the Makati courthouse when Trillanes and Lim staged their walkout.

"My first live broadcast was shortly before 11 a.m. over radio. We were still on JP Rizal Avenue," Drilon said.

About her shoes, Drilon said: "Will I cover (a mutiny in heels)?"

She said she walked in high heels from the Makati courtroom to the corner of Makati Avenue and Paseo de Roxas.

"That's a long time," she said, adding that she changed to more comfortable slip-ons later after her crew found the slippers inside their vehicle.

No prior knowledge

Webb and ABS-CBN business reporter Charo Logarta had been covering another event in Makati before linking up with Drilon to cover the unfolding drama.

All three reporters said they didn't have prior knowledge that Trillanes would walk out of the court with Lim and several other coaccused to march on the Pen.

"If we knew, we would have brought bottled water with us," Webb said.

"We were just using our cell phones to go live on ANC," she added.

Webb said that during the walk on Makati Avenue, she only realized that they were going to the Pen when one of the Magdalo soldiers said they were about to turn toward the hotel.

"I thought we were going to the Ninoy Aquino monument," Webb said.

Midnight talk

Charie Villa, head of ABS-CBN's news gathering team, said senior journalist Drilon was assigned to cover the court hearing because Lim was going to testify.

"We also received reports that (Sen. Gregorio) Honasan would take the stand," Villa said.

"That's big news," she added.

Drilon admitted that she managed to talk to Trillanes over the phone on the eve of the incident.

Instead of getting confirmation of a tip that he was about to do something drastic, Drilon said Trillanes even said he was still thinking of whether to attend the hearing.

"Someone, a source, had told me the day before to watch out for Trillanes. He was up to something. It was something which I didn't give much importance to," Drilon said.

"Then in the evening, another coworker told me to ask Trillanes if he was really up to something. So I called him up at midnight," she added.

Drilon said she stayed up late on Wednesday night because of a corporate awards event at the network.

"What is it that you're going to do?" Drilon said she asked Trillanes.

She said Trillanes tried to downplay the tip she had received.

"I then asked him if he'd be attending the hearing. He said, 'You know, I'm still thinking about it.' That was how the phone conversation ended," she said.

Puno, cops summoned over media harassment

From page A1

public hearing Thursday on the NPC complaint.

"I believe they will have to be summoned to the public hearing to give their side," CHR Commissioner Eligio Mallari said at a press conference yesterday.

Decrying the "illegal arrests" of over 30 media practitioners, NPC president Roy Mabasa filed a three-page complaint against the police officials for allegedly compromising press freedom and committing human rights violations against the journalists as individuals.

The media people were handcuffed and taken to police headquarters at Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig City, for interrogation before they were released following the Peninsula Manila siege.

The NPC complaint said:

- There were no clear and valid reasons for the arrests, making them arbitrary.
- The arrests were done in an "abusive and inhumane" manner, handcuffing the journalists—both men and women—with plastic cables as though they were "suspects in a crime that doesn't exist."
- The media people were not properly informed of their rights upon their arrest, supposedly for obstruction of justice as later disclosed by government officials in violation of the provisions of Republic Act No. 7438.
- Videotapes and cameras were allegedly confiscated in violation of the right against unreasonable searches and seizures.
- The officers committed grave abuse of authority and grave misconduct, "especially when they tied the journalists' hands in full public view."

"The NPC formally asks the [CHR] to conduct a thorough, exhaustive, and impartial investigation into the incidents for the purpose of determining culpability for the aforesaid human rights violations and to bring to justice those found liable," said the complaint.

Rules of engagement

The commissioners have ordered the NPC to submit individual affidavits of the media persons concerned so that they could issue subpoenas to Puno, Razon and Barias.

Commissioner Dominador Calamba III said the CHR would ask the officials to bring to the Dec. 6 hearing after-operations report and identify the commanding officer and all other police members involved in the arrests.

"There might also be a chance that we require a lineup of these policemen for them to be identified by the media," he said.

The commission is expected to come up with its findings and recommendations 10 days following the public hearing.

Cerge Remonde, chief of the Presidential Management Staff, yesterday said Malacañang was inviting media organizations for a dialogue to draw up "mutually accepted rules of engagement" in reporting on crisis situations.

He said the government panel would be led by Vice President Noli de Castro and would include Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., Razon and officials of the National Telecommunications Commission, which issues radio and TV licenses.

Remonde said that the Kapisanan ng Brodkaster ng Pilipinas was helping arrange the dialogue at the Dusit Hotel Nikko in Makati City.

Step forward

Remonde said that President Macapagal-Arroyo had expressed regret at the arrests of the journalists and that the dialogue would be a "step forward."

"The media cannot also be used as a shield and also a platform of sedition which is against our Penal code," he said.

Puno yesterday sought to downplay the media treatment during Thursday's uprising. He said the arrests were a result of misunderstanding by police and media of their respective role during a police operation.

"We should bridge this misunderstanding rather than go after one another because we are missing the point in the whole exercise," he said in a phone patch interview with reporters.

"Let's lower the temperature and let's go after those that deserved to be pursued, namely, the perpetrators of the coup and those who have escaped," Puno said.

"Maybe the CHR would be a good venue for us to air the responsibilities of both sectors," he said.

SEC charges PIPC execs with fraud

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

GONZALEZ-TUASON

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE Commission (SEC) said yesterday it had found fraud, "chicanery" and other violations of securities laws committed by trading firm PIPC Corp. and its officers and agents.

Philippine-registered PIPC Corp. and its parent firm Performance Investment Products Corp. (PIPC) British Virgin Islands—whose Singaporean owner reportedly vanished with at least $250 million in investors' cash—were also charged in August by the National Bureau of Investigation with syndicated fraud along with 32 officers, incorporators and employees.

In its complaint filed with the Department of Justice yesterday, the SEC found that PIPC Corp., its officers and agents were liable for violation of provisions of the Securities Regulation Code (SRC) under Section 8 or the illegal sale of unregistered securities; under Section 28 for failing to register brokers and agents to solicit investments, and under Section 26 for fraudulent transactions.

Named respondents were Singaporean national and PIPC Corp. chair Michael H.K. Liew, directors Cristina Gonzalez-Tuason and Cristina Jurado, and agents Eugene Co, Maria Pamela Morris, Michael Melchor Nubla, Luis Aragon, Mayenne Carmona, Anthony Kierulf, Renato Sarmiento Jr., Barbara Garcia, Jonathan Ocampo, Deborah Yabut, Victor Jose Vergel de Dios, David Chua-Unsu, Stanley Chua-Unsu, Nicole Ortega, Oudine Santos, Mia Legarda, Nicoline Amoranto Mendoza, Christine Yu and Herly Hesultas.

Also named respondents with no particular designation were Jose Tengco and Yeye San Pedro Choa.

The SEC told the DOJ the case stemmed from the "act of fraud and chicanery masterfully orchestrated and executed by the officers and agents of PIPC Corp. against their unsuspecting investors."

It said the deception was founded on the fact that neither PIPC Corp. nor its officers, employees and agents were registered brokers or dealers, making their transactions of offering and selling securities to the public "a blatant violation of the provisions of the SRC."

The SEC said the illegal offer or sale of securities in the form of a "Portfolio Management Partnership Agreement" to the public was perpetrated for nine years and would have continued were it not for the alleged deliberate withdrawal of all the corporation's funds by Liew.

The SEC said the fraud was masked by a supposed offshore foreign currency trading scheme promising that one's investment would be guaranteed or fully protected with prospects for profits at an annual rate of 12 to 18 percent.

Cited in the complaint to the DOJ were 32 complaint-affidavits filed with the SEC, with total investments amounting to roughly $3.8 million (based on INQUIRER computations).

SEC documents showed that while PIPC Corp. was registered with the commission, the solicitation and sale of securities was contrary to the purpose for which it was established, which was to act only as a financial research facility.

The SEC asked the DOJ to file cases in court against the respondents for the violations cited.

SEC violations are punishable by a fine of between P50,000 and P5 million or imprisonment of not less than 7 years and not more than 21 years.

SC orders court to junk case vs Urban Bank execs

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS ORDERED THE dismissal of a criminal case against the late banker Teodoro Borlongan Jr. and other officials of Urban Bank that arose from their submission of alleged falsified documents in a civil case.

In directing the Municipal Trial Court in Cities (MTCC) in Bago to throw out the charges, the high court said the affidavit-complaint of lawyer Magdaleno Peña was insufficient.

"Specifically, the respondent failed to sufficiently establish *prima facie* that the alleged documents were falsified," the tribunal said in its Nov. 23 decision.

Peña had filed the criminal complaint against Borlongan and bank officers Corazon Bejasa, Arturo Manuel Jr., Eric Lee, Siervo Dizon, Benjamin de Leon, Delfin Gonzalez Jr. and Ben Lim Jr. after alleging that the documents they submitted to disprove his claim for compensation and damages in a civil suit were not authentic.

The documents were supposed to show it was the Isabela Sugar Company Inc. (ISCI) and not Urban Bank or the petitioners that had appointed Peña to ensure that no squatters would get into the bank's property on Roxas Boulevard.

Peña had claimed the documents were falsified because the signatories were not the officials, nor were they stockholders, officers or employees of ISCI.

The Bago City prosecutor had found probable cause to charge the bank officials with introducing falsified documents and filed the case before the MTCC. The MTCC issued arrest warrants for the bank officials, who posted bail.

The Supreme Court said Peña's affidavit was not based on his personal knowledge but on his "personal belief."

It said it was important that his statements be based on, for instance, the fact that he was present when the documents were executed to ensure the proper prosecution of the bank officials.

"One cannot just claim a certain document is falsified without further stating the basis for such a claim, i.e., that he was present at the time of the execution of the document or he is familiar with the signatures in question. Otherwise, this could lead to abuse and malicious prosecution," the court said.

The court also said that even if the signatories to the documents were not ISCI officers, it did not automatically mean their signatures had been falsified as they could have signed as authorized representatives of the corporation.

It said that in determining probable cause, there need not be evidence to warrant a guilty verdict, but the basis should be more than "mere suspicion."

Sumilao farmers reach Metro

FIFTY-FIVE FARMERS OF THE HIGAONON tribe, walking all the way from Sumilao, Bukidnon, entered Metro Manila yesterday on the last leg of a 1,700-km march-to-Malacañang to protest the cancellation of their land reform grants.

Marking the 54th day of their "Walk for Sumilao Land, Walk for Justice" with a simple lunch of rice and chicken in Barangay Talon Uno, Las Piñas City, the Sumilao farmers said they will march to the Senate today, then proceed to the Department of Agrarian Reform before ending their March on Dec. 7 in front of Malacañang Palace.

Agrarian reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman, expecting the farmers to camp outside his department in the next few days, announced he would fly to Bukidnon today to personally inspect the 144-hectare estate which was given to the farmers in 1996 but later returned to its original owners, the Norberto Quisumbing Sr. Management Development Corp.

The Supreme Court upheld the rights of the Quisumbing Estate over the land in 1999 after government approved their application to convert the area into an agro-industrial park.

"We'll resolve the case as transparently as possible and we'll do it based on its merits," Pangandaman said in a press statement yesterday.

The Sumilao farmers said the Quisumbing family did not develop its promised agro-industrial estate, which reportedly would have included a "Development Academy of Mindanao." Instead, the owners sold part of the land to San Miguel Food Inc. (SMFI) in 2002.

Three years ago, the farmers asked the DAR to stop the conversion and give them back their agrarian reform grants.

The department did not act on their petition, saying it did not have jurisdiction over the case.

But as the Sumilao farmers began their march, drumming up sympathy and publicity in various towns and cities along the way, Malacañang remanded the dispute to DAR.

With a report from Julie M. Aurelio

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, December 4, 2007
1st Week of Advent
John Damascus

1st Reading: Is 11:1-10
Gospel: Luke 10:21-24

Jesus was filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit and said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and made them known to the little ones. Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. I have been given all things by my Father, so that no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and he to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."

Then Jesus turned to his disciples and said to them privately, "Fortunate are you to see what you see, for I tell you that many prophets and kings would have liked to see what you see but did not, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

Commentary

Our God comes—he is the one who bears the Spirit of the Lord upon him, filled with the gifts of the Spirit (shared with us in baptism). He comes with justice, with the words of truth, and he decides for the afflicted of the world. Do we? If so, then there will be healing of divisions, the coming together of enemies, and the climate and care for peace among all peoples, nations, religions. A child will guide them—the child of God whose dwelling place is glorious because it is one of reconciliation and peace for all.

Jesus prays in gratitude for the fulfillment of this prophecy not only in his own person as the beloved child of God, but also in the lives of all of us who have been made children of God by baptism and by Jesus' Word, life, death, and resurrection. This dwelling place is with God, the Father, the Son, and the Spirit—this is home. This is peace upon the earth and if we dwell in God, then we must make Jesus' prayer and words come true in the world. Have we been taught by the word of God, or are we still blind and deaf to God's prayer?

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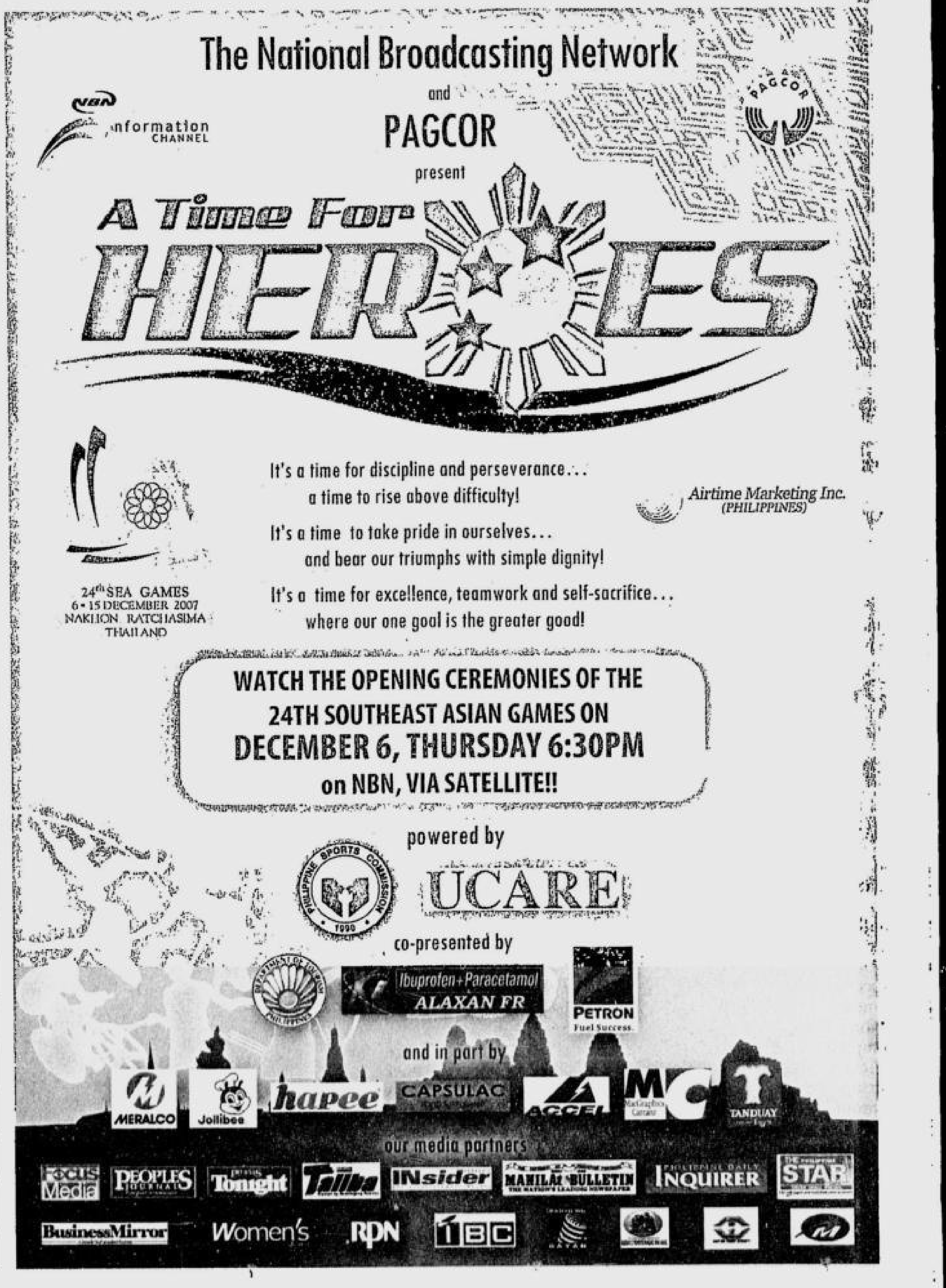

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ISSN 0116-2642
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Vol. 22 No. 359

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The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 523-5570
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000

In harm's way

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL ARROYO, BEFORE LEAVing for Europe last Saturday, instructed her Cabinet members and top military and police officials not to "unnecessarily rile the media at this point in time." (Note the adverb "unnecessarily." Are there instances where the military and police can "necessarily" rile the media?) The officials can follow Ms Arroyo's instruction simply by letting media people do their work in peace, unimpeded by strict and constricting regulations.

Journalists do not ask for—and do not need—special privileges in coverage; they just need a free, unrestricted environment in which they can effectively carry out their principal function of informing the public about what is happening in the country and the world.

Journalists have the duty to be in a place where a news event is developing. Certainly, whenever something violent is about to happen, reporters should be allowed to move to places where they will be protected from harm. But they should not be treated like children; they are mature enough to decide for themselves where they should go to get out of harm's way.

Maria Ressa, ABS-CBN news chief, is right: "No journalist is willing to die for any newsmaker." Yesterday, she explained that the ABS-CBN news team was at the Makati Regional Trial Court to cover the testimony of Brig. Gen. Daniel Lim but acted on a vague tip the previous night that Sen. Antonio Trillanes, a co-accused of Lim's in a rebellion case, would "make a move" on that day.

Ressa also said that the ABS-CBN news team was able to set up its equipment ahead of the other networks because it was familiar with the Manila Peninsula floor plan because of previous show biz coverage. Also, it had prior knowledge that the Trillanes group would go there. Ressa issued the statements by way of explaining why the ABS-CBN news team was way ahead of other news organizations in preparing for the coverage of what turned out to be the Trillanes-Lim walkout, march and hotel occupation.

Ressa also rightly justified the continuing presence of the ABS-CBN news team during the Peninsula siege. The media should be an eyewitness in a "war zone," or any place where there is public conflict, to check on "the excessive use of force." She recalled that the last time there was a major police operation was the Bicutan jail siege, where no journalist was present to witness and cover the assault. That assault ended with 22 detainees and one policeman dead.

What really happened in the Bicutan siege? Did the police use excessive force? Were most of the slain detainees executed extrajudicially? Why the very big disparity between the number of detainees and policemen killed? Nobody knows because the media were not there, on the spot, to cover the news event as it developed.

In the Peninsula standoff, there would have been little or no need to put restrictions on the positions and the movements of the media people at the hotel had the police not resorted to overkill. It was like using a cannon to SWAT down a fly: hundreds of troops and several armored personnel carriers moving against some 30 protesters, smashing down a door of the hotel and shooting up the place with high-caliber weapons. No wonder Trillanes and company decided to surrender; they did not want the blood of many people on their hands, even if the ones responsible for the shoot-up would be a battalion of trigger-happy policemen.

It is reported that the next step is for the police and the media to meet and draw up so-called "rules of engagement" (a Freudian slip on the part of the police, if you ask us, because it implies that the media and the police are in conflict). These are rules that would govern coverage by the media of standoffs, sieges, assaults and similar situations of conflict and possible violence. But there is actually no need for the police to lay down such rules. There is only one rule here, and it is the rule of self-preservation. If reporters believe they will die if they stay in a place where there is a conflict situation, they will get the hell out of it as fast as they can. To repeat Ressa's statement: "No journalist is willing to die for any newsmaker."

The media organizations should make their own rules, and individual media persons should make their own decisions, on whether to stay in a potentially dangerous or even fatal place.

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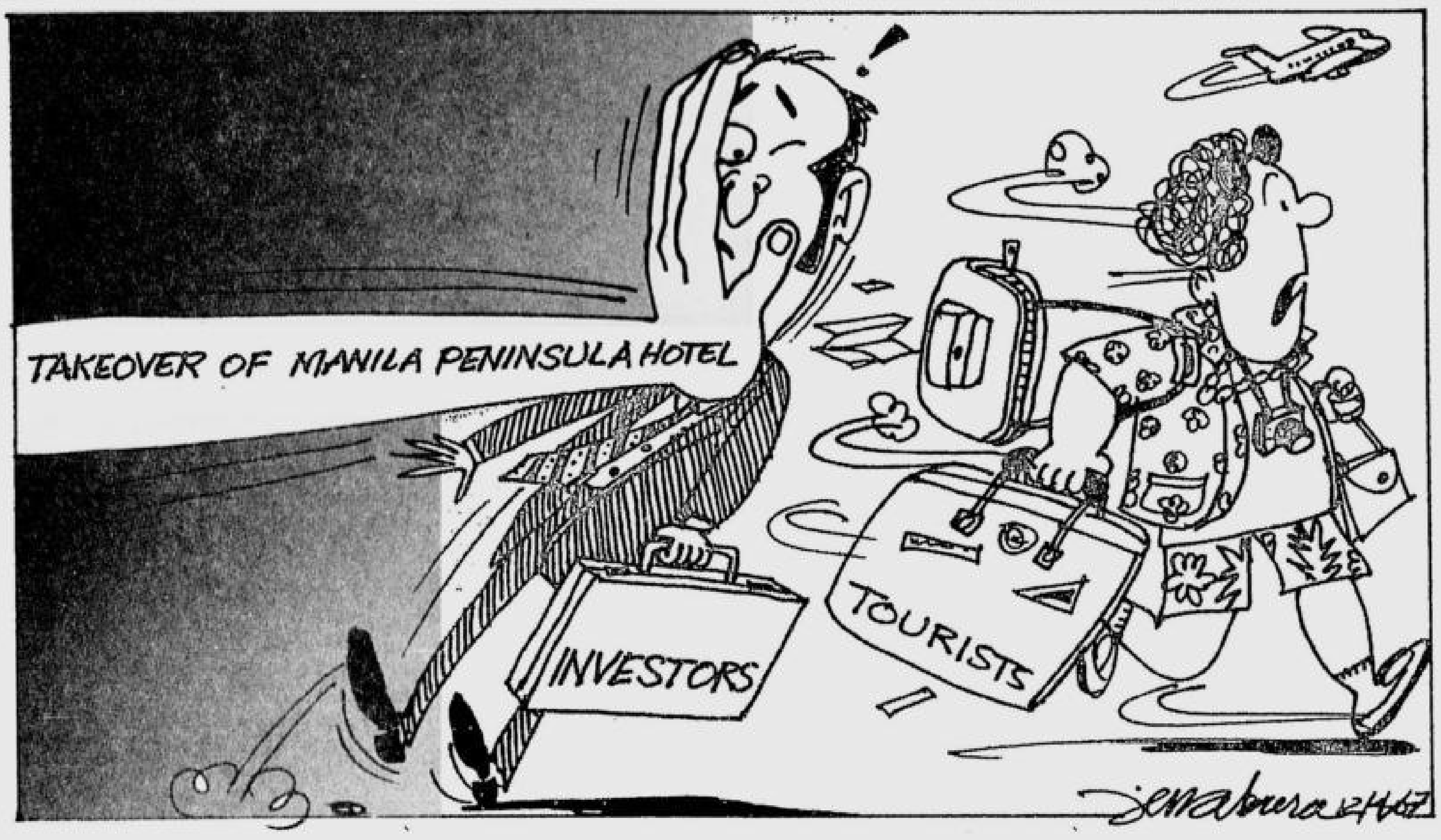

Lowered voices

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

WE SHOULD PROBABLY LOWER OUR VOICES. That seems the more sensible thing to do in today's heated exchanges over handcuffing of journalists, during the siege of rebels holed up in a Makati hotel.

Police arrested 103, after a tear-gas attack in Peninsula Hotel. Among them were 51 journalists. They were covering Sen. Antonio Trillanes, Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim and other rebels when assault teams barged in. Some were handcuffed. All were bused to a military camp where credentials were checked. They were released that evening.

Luxury hotels draw our rebels, to use a Rizal image, like moths to a candle. The Marcos "nominee," Arturo Tolentino, took over the Manila Hotel in a coup attempt against President Corazon Aquino. Trillanes' hotel of choice, for his first failed rebellion in 2003, was Oakwood. This time around, Trillanes pledged to pay for the Pen damage. But he was careful not to send for the bill.

"The mutineers ... were making a point, albeit dramatically, and of course only when they'd made sure there was an army of TV cameras," wrote BBC's Jonathan Head. "In a country so in love with the cult of celebrity, that kind of showmanship seems somehow quite natural. And then everything is more or less back to normal. It could only happen in the Philippines."

Journalists dashed for the Pen after Trillanes and supporters, stormed out of court, and holed up there. They opted to stay on, despite pleas from government forces to leave. And for seven hours, live coverage continued from journalists embedded within the hotel—until an armored personnel carrier smashed the hotel door.

"We were just doing our job. This was our right," said Charrie Villa of ABS-CBN. I'm sure they were. The police were doing their job too. It was their right to secure "an area where a crisis was unfolding," Undersecretary Marius Corpus insisted. No question about that either.

But things get hairy when two rights collide, amid tear gas, gun shots, taut nerves and players from all sides elbowing for media advantage.

There are more flash points when ground rules haven't been defined. PNP rules of engagement don't cover this issue. The press really hasn't thought through risks—and guidelines—for embedded journalists. This is new to us.

After the aborted Oakwood mutiny, the press and government had a window of opportunity to thresh out gripes. But we never got around to it. ABS-CBN's Maria Ressa complains that checking of journalists' credentials could have been done on the spot or by a phone call. That's a valid point. Such procedures could have been cobbled after Oakwood. Then, what happened at the Pen could have been avoided.

This missed Oakwood window of opportunity guaranteed today's clash. If unresolved, the same tensions will erupt during the next rebellion, which is inevitable. After the Marcos dictatorship, a once professional military emerged as a coup-prone institution, one studded with rogue elements, involved even in summary executions, as the Alston Report documents.

Many idealistic officers today must stomp down outbreaks of the coup virus. "It's the soldier—not the reporter—who has given us freedom of the press," declared a Fort Bonifacio streamer for 13 Marines killed in Basilan. That's a mind-set reminiscent of Burmese or Pakistani juntas. It makes a dialogue even more imperative.

Given the adrenalin surge, Peninsula triggered furious criticisms. "One can quibble about words," Fr. Joaquin Bernas wrote. But this "invitation for processing ... was an arrest." That's a lucid reading of the law.

But are there other perspectives. I winced to see former Vice President Teofisto Guingona manacled. We shared the same detention compound after our arrest during martial law. A visiting son, who is a Northwest Airlines pilot, had another: "If security agents stormed my plane, on an anti-hijack operation, they'd handcuff everybody on the first go. That guarantees we'll be alive to sift out the innocent from the guilty."

Threats of law suits and countersuits followed. "If some networks file charges against us, we might look into obstruction of justice," said PNP Director General Avelino Razon Jr. Call the bluff, an Inquirer editorial snapped. If media blinks, "Gestapos in the PNP and in Malacañang will ... crush everyone's political rights and civil liberties."

Protracted court brawls are not likely to give media and government the guidelines they needed yesterday. There's no quarrel on principles, like ensuring access to news sources or bans against broadcasting troop deployment. Cops may not masquerade as reporters. Nor may journalists hock credentials, etc.

The devil is in the details. What responsibilities do reporters assume when they stray in areas of operation? How do we weed out *haoshaos*? And so on. "Common sense and relatively clean fingernails," to borrow John Mortimer's phrase, can do the job.

But manacles "sidelined the real issue," grouses National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales. This was the potential for the Trillanes caper "to change the course of history." Well, yes and no.

Yes, ham-handling shifted focus of the coverage. No, the basic issue is different: Did this amateurish revolt deepen further the President's being hostage to the military?

"She owes her political survival to the military," an AFP dispatch quotes a diplomat. "She knows it. And the military knows it. There is little she can do."

Reporting how this dilemma plays out will require of us in media continued reporting of verification rather than of assertion.

* * *

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Batty things

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT EVERY TIME MIRIAM Defensor-Santiago proposes something seriously, I feel amused. Maybe because she takes herself seriously when the world doesn't. Her latest proposal is for the Senate to oust Antonio Trillanes. She has called on the senators to abandon political partisanship and unite to punish a transgressor.

She seems to have forgotten that not too long ago she—along with Juan Ponce Enrile and several other erstwhile pro-Erap political figures—goaded a throng that gathered at the Edsa Shrine to *sugod* Malacañang. Later, she even dared government to arrest her, putting a gun on top of her desk in front of TV cameras to suggest a "High Noon" scenario if the cops were to do it. To this day, I wonder why the cops did not—and maybe help to produce a different ending to the movie.

Santiago never got to be punished for it. She lost neither office nor personal liberty. All she lost was her love for Erap, to be replaced by a love for the very person she was goading the hapless horde (some were killed in the subsequent riot) to lay siege to.

Not as amusing and far more serious are the criticisms in the blogs about why Trillanes and Lim should take the mutinous path again when Trillanes, in particular, agreed to be bound by constitutional/legal processes when he ran for senator, and why anyone would want to oust a leader whose term is near to expiring, such as two-and-a-half years can be construed as near.

In the first case, well, the question precisely is whether there are still constitutional/legal processes left in the country with which to right wrongs or redress grievances. The spectacle today suggests that it's not merely that, as in Marcos' time, the people who run the country are free to ignore constitutional and legal process, if indeed they know such things exist. It's also that, as in Marcos' time, the constitutional or legal processes, or their interpretation and implementation, lie in the hands of the unconstitutional and lawless.

Being abroad offers the advantage of seeing this in a clearer light. Britain is currently rocked by a political crisis of debilitating proportions. Barely had Gordon Brown warmed his seat as prime minister than he has been beset by a scandal that has put him and his party, Labour, fighting for dear life. The scandal comes from illegal contributions to the Labour Party during the campaign. A property developer named David Abrahams has apparently contributed 650,000 pounds to the party under false pretenses by coursing it through third parties.

The question is whether Labour officials took the money in good faith or not. Labour secretary-general Peter Watt, who accepted the third-party contributions, promptly admitted he was aware of their source and resigned. Brown has tried to look resolute in resolving the issue, declaring his intention to punish the guilty, but he has been getting it right and left from Parliament. One MP provoked much laughter by saying that if Brown himself wasn't aware of what his minions were doing, then he showed ineptness of the sort that made him out to be not Mr. Brown but Mr. Bean.

Now, you compare this crime with the kinds of crimes the current occupant of Malacañang is charged with, and you'll be hard put to understand how we can put up with our case. The British prime minister is merely accused of heading a party that accepted an illegal contribution. Our President is known to have called up a Comelec official with a view to defrauding the voters. Our President is known to have bribed local officials with half a million pesos each, the transfer of money taking place right in the Palace.

Yet in their case, it's all their prime minister can now do to keep his head above water. In our case, it's all we can do to keep our President from spending taxpayers' money to visit the Queen. In their case, given a case that involves the ethics of public officials, elected officials have moved to abandon partisanship and call for the wrongdoers to be punished. In our case, well, you wonder how Santiago got to package herself as a brilliant constitutionalist given her concept of what things senators ought not to be partisan about. In their case, when MPs say let the law take its course, the public is reasonably sure the law will live up to its reputation as having a long arm. In our case, when the congressmen say let the law take its course, you see law take the face of Raul Gonzalez, Norberto Gonzales and Ronaldo Puno and know that Iraq War amputees have longer reaches.

It's all very well for people to not take extra-constitutional or extralegal ways to right wrongs and redress grievances. But what if the constitutional/legal processes are blocked at every turn? What if the constitutional/legal processes have all but disappeared?

The second objection, which is why try to oust a President whose departure isn't very far off, presumes she is going to depart then. That is a monumental presumption, which isn't borne out by the resoluteness with which constitutional and legal processes are currently being savaged. Why should a President whose term never began be unduly bothered by when it would end?

The foreign news that keeps flashing in London over the last few days is about Pervez Musharraf enjoying a fresh lease on life by declaring martial law, legitimizing his much-questioned victory in recent polls, and emerging a civilian leader in lieu of a military one from the ashes. How long he will continue to rule is anybody's guess.

When Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo remains head of the Philippine government after May 2010, either as prime minister or as president courtesy of an amended Constitution, Filipinos will have every chance to look regretfully back at Nov. 29 2007. And wonder why, when they had a chance to change their stars, they thought it was the silliest thing to do.

Too little emphasis on media responsibility

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

REP. TEDDY CASIÑO YESTERDAY DECRIED THAT the lack of accountability of public officials, led by President Macapagal-Arroyo, has led the rebel soldiers to resort to extreme measures. This argument, however, seems to be a poor excuse for grabbing power, as documents recovered from Sen. Antonio Trillanes and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim at the Manila Peninsula now indicate that they wanted to lead the junta they would establish. Thus, their plan to shunt aside the politicians is now deemed a major reason support failed to materialize for them. But even granting that the rebels' gripes are valid, the Filipino people seem to have nixed political power flowing from the barrel of the gun. Had the country made the shift to the parliamentary system two years ago, the Pen fiasco need not have taken place, as undesirable leaders can be changed by a vote of no confidence in parliament. Those who fought Cha-cha should blame themselves for what's now happening.

* * *

Bishop Ramon Arguelles of Lipa made the startling revelation in the Manila Standard that there were efforts to recruit him recently to join the rebellion to oust GMA, but that he didn't agree and refused to be used by power-grabbers. Arguelles reinforced the police theory that the Trillanes plot was far wider than it appeared to be, and was well-funded. There are reports that informal settlers in Tondo were paid P200 each to join the Pen caper, but they were stopped by government checkpoints. Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay has admitted that the wig-wearing person standing behind Trillanes in film clips works at City Hall, and there are also reports that guns were smuggled into toilets there before the rebels walked out. Police are also asking how the rebels were able to walk the two kilometers to the Pen without being stopped by Makati policemen. Binay was quoted as saying he's investigating such reports, but perhaps the first thing he ought to do is explain why he was dressed in military fatigues last Thursday morning and only changed into civvies after lunch.

* * *

The damage of Trillanes' capricious caper is inestimable. The Manila Pen had just been renovated before the rebels stormed in, and damage is estimated at P20 million. Among the worst was the destruction of its very expensive glass front and side doors. There was a lot of lost business in Makati. Sadly, too, many events were going on in Metro Manila last Thursday, and one of them involved some 200 parliamentarians from around 60 countries attending a big HIV/AIDS conference at the Manila Hotel.

* * *

I attended the luncheon hosted by Speaker Jose de Venecia that noon and later I saw Inter-Parliamentary Union Secretary General Andrew Johnson, a Swede, seek him out, plainly worried about the safety of delegates. JDV brought him up to the penthouse for some calming talk, stressing his by now famous observation that "there's cause for concern, but not for alarm," and that the rebellion would soon be crushed by government troops. Earlier talk among diplomats revealed that the British Foreign Secretary called up UK Ambassador Peter Beckingham to inquire about the situation, perhaps in anticipation of the President's visit to London this Thursday. Probably nothing could be worse for the country than the image that went around the world, courtesy of CNN, of an armored personnel carrier ramming the Pen's doors. All these, thanks to the putschists' immaturity.

* * *

The issue of media's "processing" by the police is raising a hue and cry from various media organizations here and abroad. The police explained that the media people were herded to Bicutan because of reports that some rebels pretended to be media members. Admittedly the police seemed a bit rattled that afternoon, when the right thing perhaps was to conduct the verification right in the hotel, so there would have been no need for the plastic handcuffs and the TV superstars could have been let go right away. All that, however, is hindsight, but the media remain aggrieved and plan to file charges against the police.

The unfortunate encounter drew from PMS chief Cerge Remonde, himself a mediaman, the observation that a dialogue between the protagonists is badly needed. The police also wants guidelines about handling media.

But all the complaints about curtailment of press freedom sound hollow to many people, including this columnist. For didn't we see such an unbridled press conference by Trillanes et al. under full media coverage? Many citizens found it disconcerting, in fact, that the police didn't do anything as the rebels talked their heads off, although it was good they didn't, for now there's hordes of disillusioned voters of Trillanes. It must also be stressed that the police patiently called the desks of all newspaper and TV-radio newsroom and pleaded with them to get their reporters out of the Pen by 3 p.m., as counter-operations were to begin. But the media just ignored that plea and for the next three hours, they stuck by the rebels, with some plainly heard over TV saying, "We'll protect you." Sadly, many of our media practitioners seem too obsessed with their freedom "to do our job" but there's too little emphasis on media's responsibility. One such responsibility involves cooperation with police to protect public interest against enemies of the state.

* * *

Don't fail to watch tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the PICC the gala Christmas concert, "Adeste Fideles 2007," organized by realtor Eddie Yap for the Management Association of the Philippines. It will feature the country's leading tenors and sopranos, the Philippine Madrigal Singers, Vina Morales, George Yang and the Metro Manila Community Orchestra under Josefino "Chino" Toledo. Among those invited to watch for free are the patients of V. Luna Medical Center, Alay sa Kawal Foundation's widows and orphans and students of the Erda Technical-Vocational High School.

'Bravehearts' against cervical cancer

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THIS IS HOW DR. JANE ADEVOSO, 27, DESCRIBES herself: "the eldest in the family, the only girl, the first niece, the first grandchild."

Throughout her life, she says, she was treated "like a princess" by her parents and the other adults in her family, and she and her loved ones had good reason to believe that nothing bad or evil would ever happen to her. Then last year, Jane found herself pregnant, and during her first check-up she underwent a routine pap smear, a screening procedure that tests for cervical cancer. When the doctor called her about the results, Jane says she was "surprised and afraid," not knowing how to tell her parents about the diagnosis.

At age 26, Jane found herself "pregnant and a cancer patient," and in the early days after the diagnosis "lived in denial that I had the disease." Referred to Dr. Cecilia Llave, head of the UP-PGH Cancer Institute and an OB-gyn oncologist, Jane also faced a difficult choice: terminate her pregnancy so she could undergo immediate treatment, or continue with her pregnancy and risk the further progression of the cancer. "I chose to continue my pregnancy," recounts Jane, "and in October 2006, I gave birth to my son Gabriel. Soon after, I underwent a hysterectomy (removal of the uterus)."

And yet, despite the crisis that "tested my spirit and faith," Jane offers a message of hope to all women at risk of developing cervical cancer. "Cancer can be treated, especially with early diagnosis and treatment, and there can be life after a diagnosis."

Because of what she had undergone and has since learned about cervical cancer, Doktora Jane also considers herself a "Braveheart," the name of a multi-sectoral coalition launched last week to raise public awareness about cervical cancer, including its prevention.

* * *

"BRAVEHEARTS" is led by the Cervical Cancer Prevention Network (Cecap) and the Cancer Institute Foundation (CIF), mainly to alert women to the causes of cervical cancer and the many ways to prevent it. Dr. Llave, who is also program director of Cecap, said that over 20 years, the incidence and mortality rate for cervical cancer have remained unchanged, with one of three Filipino women dying of the disease every year, and three out of four in five years.

"Women lack awareness on the fact that cervical cancer can be treated if diagnosed early. But the more important message is for them to know that they don't have to be in danger of getting cervical cancer because it can now be prevented," said Dr. Llave.

Present at the launch of "Bravehearts" was Sen. Loren Legarda, already a known advocate for breast cancer awareness, which took the life of her mother Bessie after whom a cancer institute has been named. In her brief talk, Legarda focused on the need for greater public advocacy on cervical cancer. There is a need to increase the overall government budget for health, she said, promising to convince the DOH during the budget deliberations to "allocate a portion of its P206-million budget for women's health to cervical cancer."

* * *

MOST cervical cancer cases are a result of infection with the human papilloma virus (HPV), a common virus especially among sexually active men and women. But while most HPV infections clear spontaneously, a persistent infection can result in lesions in the cervix which if left untreated can develop into cancer.

For decades now, the main tool in cervical cancer prevention was the pap smear, a test in which cells from the cervix are gathered and examined under a microscope to test for abnormal looking cells. But one problem with the pap smear is that it requires the skills of a trained pathologist and lab facilities. Aside from the costs incurred, it also requires a woman to come back or be contacted for her results, which in many settings can be inconvenient and impractical.

Other tests have since been developed, including a low-cost and simple test for the presence of HPV DNA which indicates an infection, and which is now being pilot-tested in some countries. There is also a test designed for "low resource settings," the VIA or visual inspection with acetic acid wash, in which trained health personnel (including midwives and even community health workers) can check for the presence of lesions using only the naked eye by "washing" the cervix area with acetic acid or household vinegar. Given the lack of resources and the very low number of women gaining access to traditional screening methods, the DOH has adopted the VIA as the preferred screening method in the country.

* * *

THE CECAP has also partnered with JHPIEGO, a global initiative on community health, in the establishment of the "single-visit approach," which tests women, especially in remote, underserved areas in the country, using the VIA then treating visible lesions through cryotherapy. The goal, said JHPIEGO president Leslie Mancuso, is to "get the results (to the women) and get them treated if needed, preferably in one visit."

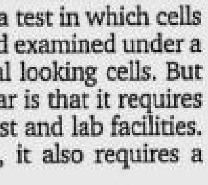
So far, said Mancuso, they have trained "thousands" of doctors, nurses and midwives around the country in the single-visit approach and screened some 3,000 women, 40 of whom were found to have pre-cancerous lesions and were treated.

The ultimate goal, of course, is to prevent HPV infection, which can be addressed by the HPV vaccine, two versions of which are being marketed by drug multinationals. But given the high cost of the vaccines, hope for making a dent in the number of cervical cancer deaths lies in a combination of public awareness; public demand for (and the availability of) screening and treatment; as well as for the vaccines.

With "Bravehearts" engaged in the struggle against the disease, we might see fewer women sharing the fate that befell Jane.

The limits of outrage

NEWSSTAND



John Nery

NOT CONTENT WITH THE DAMAGE ANTONIO Trillanes et al. caused last Thursday, Malacañang issued orders to detain some (but, crucially, not all) of the journalists who covered the caper. The resulting controversy was like ramming a tank into the country's various newsrooms; it invited public outrage and international condemnation, at the exact moment the administration found itself in a position to claim an unusual, because unalloyed, victory.

But the Arroyo administration over-reacted in cuffing journalists and imposing a curfew—forcing the President, on the eve of her departure for Europe, to remind her alter egos "not [to] unnecessarily rile the media at this point in time."

To be sure, there is a logic to the paranoia. The administration is testing the limits of the people's capacity for resistance. It is essential that we push back.

* * *

I was guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Manila on the day Trillanes decided to play (ineptly) for all the marbles. Naturally, the possibility of popular support for Trillanes and company was a topic of discussion.

As it happens, I had decided to speak on "the limits of outrage," in an attempt to read current public opinion on corruption. I wanted to know the answer to a question I thought was all too often assumed in political scenario-building: Will public disgust over corruption unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo? In other words: Will outrage lead to ouster?

* * *

I have been tracking what I then called the "outrage gap" since the "Hello, Garci" scandal exploded. My first post in my Newsstand blog, written on July 4, 2005, raises a question about the relationship between public outrage as measured by surveys, and protests in the streets.

* * *

At the Rotary Club of Manila forum, I studied three surveys. It was important, of course, to start right, with something that approaches Cartesian certitude. I started with the hypothesis that the public today shares the sense that "corruption is at its worst." I began with anecdotal evidence: the sense that, especially since the disclosure of the distribution of "cash gifts" in Malacañang, public forums and private conversations have been shaped by growing disgust over all-pervading corruption.

And then I looked to the surveys for confirmation. The PERC 2007 survey (admittedly requiring a leap back in time) shows the Philippines faring the worst among 13 economies. This is the survey (again, admittedly of a very select public: expatriates doing business in Asia) that, taken somewhat out of context, gave the opposition a rallying cry in the last election. But why was it such an effective rallying point? Because it captured so-called conventional wisdom. The June 2007 SWS survey also showed that, on the issue of graft and corruption, an almost-majority of voting-age Filipinos said they were dissatisfied with the Arroyo administration's performance. Only a bare third said they were satisfied.

* * *

These numbers, if we equate public dissatisfaction with public outrage, will give pause to any politician with a weak stomach or weaker appetite. But as it turns out, the numbers are not as damning over the longer term. The same SWS survey shows that the net satisfaction rating on the administration's handling of graft and corruption (-18 in June 2007) was actually worse in September 2006 (-30). In other words, there has been a cooling in public opinion (or at least the results allow us to say that).

In fact, the cooling pattern is some 20 years old. SWS reports that public opinion on government's handling of graft and corruption traditionally begins at a (relatively) high level with every administration, and then declines over the administration's term.

That brings us to the present. In its October 2007 survey, Pulse Asia found that a majority of voting-age Filipinos identified various graft and corruption issues as reason enough for a president to resign. (I have a little problem with this part of the survey, but I think the main thrust is indisputable.) When asked what action they were willing to take to force the resignation of a president linked to graft and corruption, however, only a quarter said they were willing to take to the streets. About the same number said they were willing to do something beyond street protests.

There, as that little Shakes-scene taught us to say, is the rub. Outrage over corruption is not what brings people to the streets. It prepares the public, and it leads to defeat of the incumbent at the ballot box. But Edsa I was not so much about corruption as about election fraud; Edsa II was about the hijacking of the impeachment process.

Rotarian Nick Locsin summarized my point succinctly: We are not insensitive to corruption, but we are used to it. The lesson for regime-changers: Corruption scandals do not prematurely bring down an administration, but proof of something else entirely—brazen fraud, gross impunity, lewd dancing in the halls of the Senate.

* * *

Allow me to remember a friend who died a most unexpected death last month. Emoy Gorgonia was a poet of possibility, with a gift for locating the positive in any situation. He was also the most gifted, among all the people I know, at the art of romance; he knew the stagecraft of courtship, of wooing, intimately. Indeed, some of his "gimmicks" are legend to his students and mine, back when we were teaching in Xavier University. That these were as collaborative as plays, that they depended on other people for their style and wit, is a tribute to his talent for working with people, and imbuing them with, yes, the sense of possibility.

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Inside call centers

YOUNG BLOOD

Allyn C. Lara

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

PERHAPS MANY PEOPLE HAVE ALREADY WRITTEN ABOUT the wonders and benefits of the call center industry: how it has been providing generous pay, perks and privileges to the twentysomethings, or how it has provided jobs to thousands of Filipinos all over the country.

These are the known facts. But what about the unknown bits and pieces that make up a call center?

Oftentimes, things "unknown" are interpreted to mean scary or ugly or even taboo. In the call center industry, however, it does not need to have always a negative connotation. So I am writing to share with everyone some unknown facts: anecdotes, procedures and other crazy stories that make an entire industry. These are basically experiences someone inside the industry encounters almost on a daily basis that may shock, disturb or simply amuse.

Here then is a chronicle of my not-so-ordinary, five-year, call center experience.

Fact No. 1: The call center is the new church of the gay religion. Work in a call center for just one day (or night, since most call centers are on graveyard shift anyway) and you will meet dozens of gorgeous, uh, men. They can be divided into three groups: (1) the homophobic straights (these are the guys who would pulverize over-aggressive gay men in public restrooms), (2) the curious straights (their primary preference are women but when enticed or seduced by gay men, they give in), and (3) the certified gays, who can be sub-categorized into two groups—the peppermints, a.k.a. "Pa-MHIN-Ta," (discreet, still-hiding-in-the-closet gay men, and the flamboyants who either cross-dress or are just too loud and proud of their homosexuality).

Fact No. 2: The call center industry is the breeding ground for "college bosses." Gone are the days when a typical boss was an old, fat, balding guy who ordered everyone around and asked anyone to fix him a cup of coffee. In the call center industry, you get to meet very young bosses whose ages range from 22 to 25 years. They are definitely not the classic "The Devil Wears Prada" bosses, instead they are your carefree, fresh-from-college bosses who love to party and drink Starbucks coffee as if it's water. Oftentimes, these bosses get to where they are not because of their superior skills and intelligence but because of their great "talent" to smother their own bosses with praises and compliments and their ability to kiss butts.

Fact No. 3: The call center industry is slowly turning into a haven for the "plastics." The movie "Mean Girls" glorified the "plastics" as portrayed by Lindsay Lohan and Rachel McAdams. They are basically persons who do not show their true colors, and most of the time they engage in backbiting.

Working in a call center exposes you to the world of "plastics." Beware of those who treat you extraordinarily nice, those who appear too friendly, because they are oftentimes the same persons who say the unkindest things about you behind your back. Once I took an elevator, with two colleagues whom I will just call Gorio and Tekla. We made small talk and I heard Tekla say, "Gosh, Gorio, you're so funny *talaga*..." and ended with a sweet, melodious laugh. Gorio laughed with her and got off the elevator. As soon as the poor guy was out of earshot, Tekla looked at me, made a face and said, "Gosh, Allyn, I hate that guy! He is so *pa-bibo*... taking out our boss for cocktails just to get promoted. He's so undeserving! Duh!"

I wanted to ask Tekla, "Wasn't it just seconds ago when you were cracking jokes with Gorio? And now you're telling me you hate the guy?" Like, duh!

Fact No. 4: The call center industry is the modern-day Garden of Eden. Remember it was in that garden where Adam and Eve met and fell in love, and now the call center is a paradise for lovers. It is where single men and women meet, work together and fall in love. It is also where married men and married women meet, work together, fall in love and leave their wives or husbands. Morality and social obligations are often overlooked, if not, deliberately forgotten as lust triumphs completely.

Fact No. 5: The call center industry is a ticket for foreign travels. Most call center companies nowadays include training abroad as part of the job offer to entice the best applicants. True enough, there are call centers that send their employees to places like United States and United Kingdom on all-expense paid trips. There are so many stories about young men and women who had the wonderful opportunity of traveling overseas, thanks to generous companies.

These are just some of the many things that very few people know about the call center industry. In writing about them, my intention is not to expose or mock people working in the industry or expose some ugly, hidden truths, policies or procedures. I am merely writing about the experiences I had while working in a call center. After working in the industry for five years, I think I can say I know its ins and outs. Indeed the industry is worth venturing into, as it promises an unbelievable and magical journey.

Allyn C. Lara, 28, has a bachelor's degree in European Languages from the University of the Philippines and now supervises a family business dealing with scents and fragrances.

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THEY SAID

Questions of survival

"[President Macapagal-Arroyo] chose to survive rather than be right, rather than be just. It's not even a question of mercy. It's a question of survival for her. It's transactional leadership at its purest form."

—Sen. Richard Gordon, on the President's decision to pardon Joseph Estrada

Ungrateful artists

"We fed them for two months. We struggled to raise funds to make an honest-to-goodness, true-blue press freedom mural and they do this to us. They bit the hand that fed them....They are the lowest kind of artists."

—NPC director Joel Sy Egco, saying members of the Neo-Angono Artists Collective are ingrates.

Palace disregarded civilian lives

THE WAY MALACAÑANG HANDLED THE "Manila Peninsula Hotel standoff" last Nov. 29 showed us that the present administration has no regard for the safety of civilians and is not inclined to listen to the people's call for sobriety. The volleys of gunfire unleashed toward the hotel, the tear gas attack and the use of an armored personnel carrier (APC) to force entry into the hotel were incontrovertible evidence that the combined special forces of the police and military were given orders to launch an all-out assault, even at the risk of losing civilian lives, including those of Bishop Julio Labayen, former Vice Pres. Teofisto Guingona and members of the media.

We strongly condemn Malacañang for resorting to excessive force that could have cost the lives of so many people.

We also join media groups in condemning the unjustified arrest of media persons. The arrest of media workers who were in the scene just to do their duty constitutes a grave violation of press freedom and the people's right to know.

We admire the media people who courageously stood their ground to carry on with their job during those critical hours.

We deplore the Arroyo government for declaring a virtual martial law by imposing a curfew, putting up checkpoints and carrying out warrantless arrests such as the mass arrest of reporters and civilians last Nov. 29. As we have repeatedly seen in the past, it will not only be Sen. Antonio Trillanes and his supporters who will be the targets of heightened surveillance, harassment, threats and arrests. In the name of "national security," people's organizations, and even media groups, that are critical of the administration will also be subjected to this oppressive and repressive campaign.

PROOF of callousness? An APC in the hotel lobby

FILE PHOTO

We will continue to voice our protests even as we call for the immediate ouster of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for being party to plunder, massive fraud, political killings and deadly bombings against civilians. The present administration can continue to keep in detention Senator Trillanes et al. and to threaten the arrest of administration critics. But the people victimized by Ms Arroyo's corrupt government and the patriotic Filipino soldiers with legitimate grievances who want change will never be suppressed.

Former President Ramos claimed that the Filipino people will have to live with Ms Arroyo as president until 2010 because we have "no better options." This is a gross insult to the integrity of Filipino leaders who can rightfully replace the morally bankrupt and illegitimate president. The people who have had enough of corruption, poverty and injustice will continue to demand change and better options other than this rotten government.

—AMIE DURAL, secretary general,
Promotion of Church People's Response
(PCPR), 3/F NCCP Compound,
879 Edsa, Quezon City 1101

Base sin tax on current retail prices

IN RECENT WEEKS, THE GOVERNMENT's revenue collection performance has become a hot topic. Much has been said about the falling collection on "sin" taxes, or the excise taxes levied on alcohol and tobacco products. Unfortunately, the excise tax classification of our cigarette brand Pall Mall has been conveniently but erroneously dragged into the issue.

Please allow us, therefore, to clarify a number of relevant points.

First, Pall Mall's classification as a mid-price brand subject to a rate of P6.74 per pack will not lead to a reduction in the Bureau of Internal Revenue's excise tax collections. Pall Mall has always been paying this rate since the time of its market introduction in 2004. The Department of Finance decision on July 24, 2007 merely confirmed it as Pall Mall's proper and final tax classification.

Second, if Pall Mall is to be taxed at a rate higher than P6.74 per pack, it would be uncompetitive as a mid-price brand, since its competitor brands like Winston and Hope are also paying the rate of P6.74. Pall Mall would eventually be forced out of the market and, instead of having one other brand such as Pall Mall contributing to collections, the BIR would lose a potential revenue source.

Pall Mall's critics have been quoting a number of different figures in alleging the supposed "loss of government revenues." The figures range from P55 million, to P93 million, to P100 million. The different figures are most certainly due to the flawed assumptions behind these "computations." In a congressional hearing last week, Commissioner Lilian Hefti explained that taxing Pall Mall at P6.74 would result in loss of government revenues because of possible downtrading; for example, Marlboro smokers switching to Pall Mall (Marlboro, being a "high-price" brand, now pays P10.88 per pack). However, that is highly speculative and does not take into account that consumer behavior is based on many factors like brand loyalty, product quality and marketing strategies. Not to mention that it amounts to a protectionist policy in favor of one particular brand.

If there are sectors looking for ways to optimize the government's revenue collections from excise taxes, one area worth looking into is the indexation of excise rates vis-à-vis current retail prices. For example, Pall Mall at a P6.74 rate would be paying its correct excise tax based on the principle of the current law providing that excise rates should be based on net retail prices. None of the present dominant brands in the market can say the same for themselves. The excise rates they are currently paying are still based on their 1996 retail prices. If all brands are now to be classified based on their current net retail prices, government collections would increase tremendously.

—JEREMY FLINT,
general manager,
British American Tobacco
Philippines,
22/F Citibank Tower,
8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

Re parasite infection: Please don't blame the victims

AS I WAS READING THE NEWS item headlined "70 dead in parasite infection; entire Zambo village afflicted" (INQUIRER, 11/28/07), I told myself that the epidemic was but one of the many testaments to the current state of health in our country. While some Filipinos happily go about their daily lives, eating three or more meals a day, spending P300-P400 per meal in fancy restaurants, there are those, in many places such as this village in Siayan, Zamboanga, who barely have anything to eat and who are pushed to eat things they know are not fit for human consumption.

This is no longer a surprise to me. As a medical graduate from the Philippine General Hospital, I am aware that this is what is happening throughout the country. We don't have to look far. We see this in Metro Manila.

But what came as a shock to me were the last six paragraphs of the report. That the people who died should be blamed for their fate was by itself already abhorrent; even more loathsome was to hear the blame coming from the Zamboanga del Norte health chief.

I don't know whether her words were taken out of context. I would not call her an elitist who does not have a heart for her constituents. But what she reportedly said really bothered me.

Yes, the people of this village may not know how to "defecate." Yes, the people of this village may "(not) know how to follow prescriptions" or even simple instructions.

But aren't these the reasons why health authorities are deployed in different parts of the country? I'm sure that Dr. Carmencita Icao meant well for her people. I just hope that, rather than criticizing the victims and blaming them for their condition, she would find the solution to this problem very soon.

—DR. JT TIBUNG, 04-19 Tanjong
Ria Condominium,
Tanjong Rhu Road, Singapore

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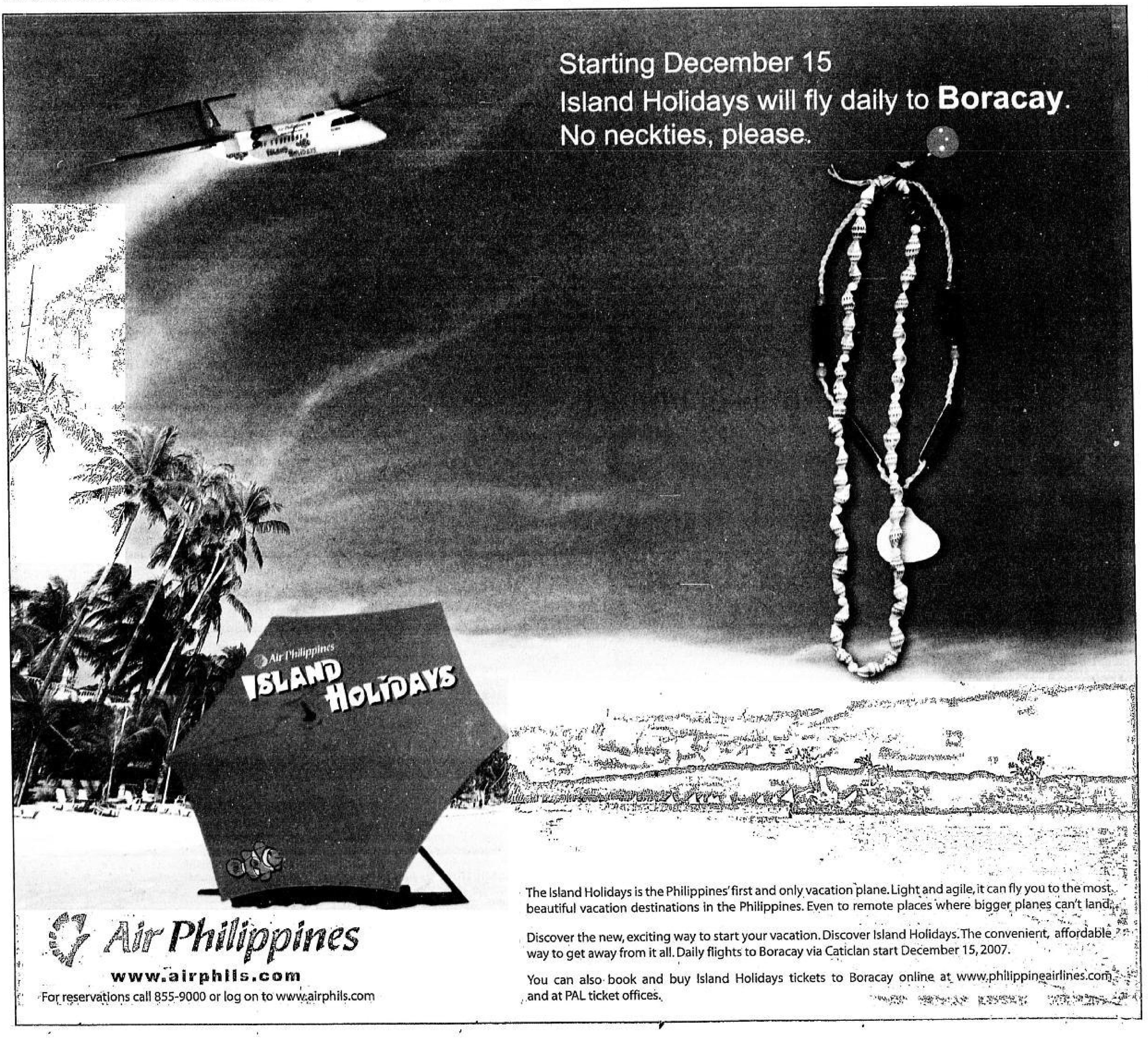
No closure on Pelaez slay attempt

KUDOS TO FORMER SGT. PABLO Martinez for admitting and repenting his involvement in the assassination of Ninoy Aquino. I admire him for coming clean and revealing what he knows of the case and Ninoy's killing.

But I am deeply disappointed with the reaction of Sen. Noynoy Aquino to Martinez's confession implicating Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco as the mastermind. Senator Aquino dismissed the allegation as "absurd." (INQUIRER, 11/245/07) Is it really? What would be Martinez's motive for making a false confession? Isn't this allegation worth examining more closely?

Our family has not been as fortunate as Sen. Aquino's in terms of getting our father's case solved. Since the attempt on the life of our father, Emmanuel Pelaez, in July 1982, no solid leads have turned up. In our case, however, the blessing was that our father survived the five bullets that pierced his body. He lived up to July 2003. No one has yet come out to put closure to our case.

—EDUARDO F. PELAEZ,
Cagayan de Oro City



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JPE, Ping tangle over helicopters

From page A1

island-hop in style and comfort.

Sen. Panfilo Lacson questioned the "frivolous" purchase of the two helicopters which he said accounted for nearly 15 percent of the Philippine Air Force's P8.2-billion budget for 2008.

"It's worse than Erap's kitchen or Erap's yacht," Lacson said, referring to the lavish renovation of the Malacañang kitchen and the presidential boat during the Estrada administration.

The helicopter purchase surfaced during deliberations on the 2008 budget in the Senate.

"At a time when projected gross borrowings would reach P346 billion in 2008 and with a shortfall of P40 billion in tax collections as of September, wouldn't it be unconscionable to buy two helicopters costing P634 million each?" Lacson queried Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, chair of the Senate committee on finance, who was tasked to defend the 2008 budget in behalf of the Arroyo administration.

"When it concerns the safety of the Chief Executive, I'm not ready to say it's unconscionable," replied Enrile.

"Couldn't the President share one helicopter with the First Gentleman?" asked Lacson, to which Enrile replied: "One would be overused."

Lacson could not believe how Ms Arroyo could acquire two brand new helicopters while the Air Force has to make do with hand-me-downs from Washington.

In June, the PAF got 10 used Vietnam War-era UH-1H choppers or Hueys for the government's counterinsurgency operations, part of the military hardware promised by US President George W. Bush during his Manila visit in 2003.

The PAF has 40 helicopters, most of which are second-hand and were donated by the United States.

37 lawmakers join GMA party; who's paying for their trip?

From page A1

The President and her husband, Jose Miguel Arroyo, were seated in business class, along with their children, Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, Diosdado "Dato" Arroyo and Evangeline Lourdes "Luli" Arroyo. The first couple's grandchildren were also on the flight.

Other officials who enjoyed business class comfort with the first family were Finance Secretary Peter Favila, Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye and Senators Edgardo Angara, Miriam Santiago and Juan Miguel Zubiri.

Also in the VIP cabin were controversial women close to the President, including Malacañang staff member Remedios Poblador and Rep. Amelita Villarosa, both tagged in the recent bribery scandal at the Palace.

Other lawmakers and businessmen in the entourage were seated in economy.

34 lawmakers

"I'm shocked," Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said in the plenary session upon receiving the three-page Malacañang protocol list, copies of which were distributed to reporters. "I can't imagine what their role is in the presidential trip."

A separate two-page document from the Office of Presidential Protocol also listed 34 members of the House of Representatives as having been "cleared for inclusion in the delegation of the President."

Five more lawmakers were included in a separate list provided in a text message by someone identified with De Venecia.

With funding for the Europe trip under scrutiny, the Speaker claimed that the House leadership spent not a single centavo for the mammoth delegation.

Cheaper Medicines Bill

"There was no appropriation from the House regarding their plane fare, hotel bills and per diem (allowance)," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

List of lawmakers in the President's trip to Madrid, Spain

1. SIMEON DATUMANONG, MAGUINdanao
2. Ma. Amelita Villarosa, Occidental Mindoro
3. Reylina Nicolas, Bulacan
4. Ma. Milagros Magsaysay, Zambales
5. Mary Ann Susano, Quezon City
6. Victoria Reyes and spouse, Batangas
7. Rizalina Seachon-Lanete and son, Masbate
8. Herminia Ramiro, Misamis Occidental
9. Antonio Alvarez and spouse, Palawan
10. Trinidad Apostol, Leyte
11. Ma. Rachel Arenas, Pangasinan
12. Abraham Kahlil Mitra, Palawan
13. Rodolfo Antonino and spouse, Nueva Ecija
14. Antonio Cerilles, Zamboanga del Sur
15. Reynaldo Uy, Western Samar
16. Roger Mercado, Southern Leyte
17. Albert Garcia, Bataan
18. Monico Puentevella, Bacolod City
19. Nanette Castelo-Daza and companion, Quezon City
20. Arnulfo Go, Sultan Kudarat
21. Datu Pax Mangudadatu, Sultan Kudarat
22. Monica Louise Prieto-Teodoro, Tarlac
23. Anna York-Bondoc, MD, Pampanga
24. Aurelio Gonzales, Pampanga
25. Ferdinand Martin Romualdez, Leyte
26. Zenaida Angping and spouse, Manila
27. Danilo Suarez, Quezon
28. Rodolfo Albano III, Isabela
29. Mark Llandro Mendoza, Batangas
30. Del de Guzman, Marikina City
31. Carmen Cari, Leyte
32. Ann Tan, Western Samar
33. Carissa Coscolluela, Buhay
34. Maria Isabelle Climaco, Zamboanga
35. Sen. Edgardo Angara
36. Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago
37. Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri

De Venecia declined to comment on the timing and propriety of the lawmakers' trip, considering that it came when the lower house was about to vote on the landmark Cheaper Medicines Bill.

This was the reason Palawan Rep. Antonio Alvarez did not join the presidential entourage.

Alvarez is chair of the committee on trade and industry, which consolidated more than 20 bills seeking to lower the prices of medicines in the country.

"I was in the Malacañang list since last year, but I had to back out," he told the INQUIRER. "Our work on the cheaper medicines bill was not yet done. It would be embarrassing to leave."

The INQUIRER yesterday phoned the offices of each of the lawmakers on the Malacañang protocol list. At least 27 lawmakers were confirmed to have joined the European trip.

Meeting the king and queen

Spanish King Carlos I and Queen Sofia de Grecia formally met with Ms Arroyo and her husband in an elaborate welcome ceremony in Madrid yesterday morning (afternoon in Manila) which evoked historical and sentimental memories for both countries.

Ms Arroyo is the second Philippine President after her late father, President Diosdado Macapagal, to officially visit Spain. During the 1962 state visit, then presidential daughter Gloria Macapagal joined her father, a trip which she said evoked both "historical and sentimental memories."

During an elaborate ceremony at 10:45 a.m. here (5:45 p.m. in Manila), Ms Arroyo was given arrival honors, complete with a 21-gun salute and a full military parade, at the courtyard of the Palacio de el Pardo, the residence for visiting heads of state and monarchs.

Soon after the Spanish monarchs arrived and took their places of honor in the Palace courtyard, Ms Arroyo and the First Gentleman arrived by car.

The king and queen welcomed and greeted the First couple before Ms Arroyo was ushered toward the Royal Guard formation, signaling the start of the arrival honors.

Filipinos in Madrid

From there, the First Couple motored to the Spanish Senate where Ms Arroyo was met by the Senate President and the President of the Chamber of Deputies Manuel Marin Gonzales.

Ms Arroyo and her husband had a flurry of activities in Madrid late yesterday as they laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Plaza de la Lealtad, had a private lunch with the Spanish royalty at the Palacio de la Zarzuela, visited the Ayuntamiento de Madrid (City Hall) and met with Spanish politicians and businessmen.

The day was capped by a gala dinner hosted by the king and queen at the Palacio Real de Madrid, the official residence of the monarchs.

Ms Arroyo officially started her four-day state visit to Spain late Sunday (Monday in Manila) by meeting with Filipino professionals and other overseas Filipino workers who gathered at the La Salle Colegio Nuestra Señora de las Maravillas.

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Tourists, worms main threats to rice terraces

PESTS, falling yields, and the lure of higher-paying jobs outside the farm threaten the future of the rice terraces, one of the Philippines' top tourist draws. AFP

BATAD—AFTER PUTTING HIS SEEDLINGS TO BED IN THE world-famous Banaue rice terraces in the northern Philippines, farmer Gabriel Balicdon works as a tourist guide and buys rice from the grocer.

Built by Ifugaos—mountain farmers and woodcarvers—at about the same time the Pyramids of Egypt and the Great Wall of China were being constructed, the terraces look like giant staircases leading to the clouds.

But now migration, the lure of easy tourist money and a plague of giant earthworms imperil the 2,000-year-old structures that follow the contours of the Cordileras mountains.

Endangered

The flooded terraced paddies that draw nearly 100,000 tourists a year have since 2001 been on the "endangered list" of the UN's World Heritage sites.

"We need to protect our heritage, but young people no longer want to work the farm. If the paddy crumbles they do not know how to repair it," said Balicdon.

The 46-year-old owner of four plots on the amphitheater-shaped terraces in the village of Batad, not far from the town of Banaue, does not produce enough for his family of nine, so he looks for odd jobs to make ends meet in the six months between planting and harvesting the aromatic upland rice.

"In the summer we go to Banaue to buy rice," Balicdon said, smiling at the irony.

Tourism draw

Neighbor Simon Illog, 46, gave up farming in 1989 to open a tourist inn, one of seven concrete structures on a ridge overlooking the fields.

He says it is difficult to find farm hands to maintain his inheritance, and wonders if tourists will still come if the main attraction is no more.

"The terraces on the peripheral areas are falling into ruin," he said.

It took Nestor Buccah, 57, three months, using mud and rock, to repair the retaining wall of a plot that had been gnawed away by foot-long (30-centimeter) earthworms that are slowly taking over the Batad fields.

> 'The culture of the people there is eroding faster than the terrace...'

"My son works in the city as a driver. He would rather help me here but we need his wages to buy meat," he said.

"People all want a higher quality of life and the amenities that modern times can offer," said Marilyn Bartina, an official of the Ifugao Cultural Heritage office that is working to preserve the terraces.

Abandonment

"So they send their children to school but the graduates don't go back to the terraces and farm, and they (the terraces) fall into disrepair."

The terraces are also drying up due to deforestation at the watersheds above the farms, Bartina said, as local craftsmen cut down trees to use the roots for carving images of Ifugao gods.

Rice terraces are common across the Cordilleras, and the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (Unesco) Heritage Center has highlighted the visual feasts located in Ifugao province—Batad and nearby Bangaan, the clusters in Kiangan town, the extensive plots around Mayoyao and the structures in Hungduan that radiate like spider webs.

Inheritance

The plots are handed down from one generation to the next, "but the first born always gets the lion's share," said Marieta Hangdaan, a provincial tourism official.

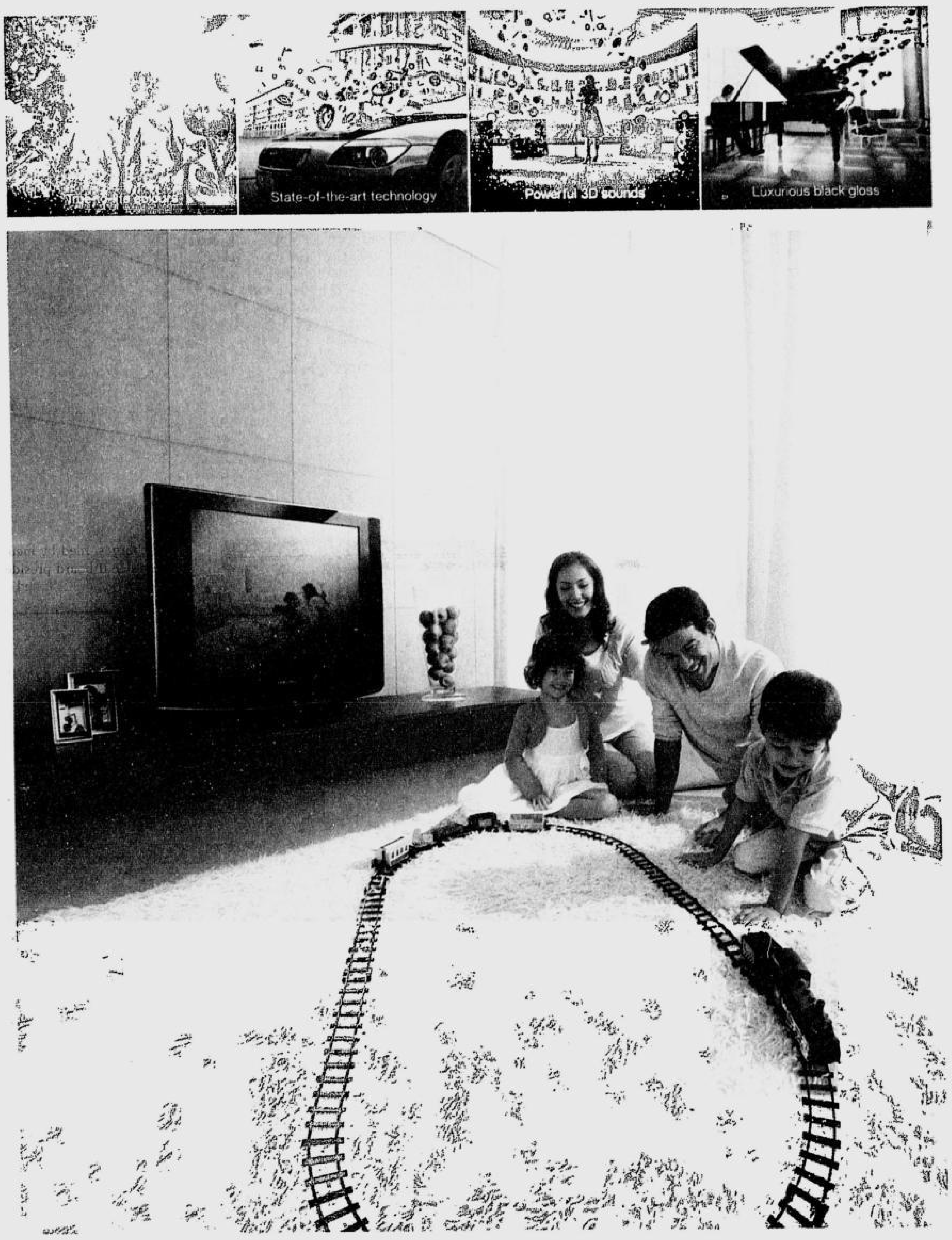
Other siblings leave and burn nearby forests for temporary farms or migrate to neighboring provinces or abroad.

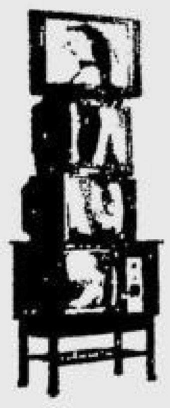
Older folk do not particularly like the tourists, who totter along the narrow paddy walls with their cameras. Electricity reaches only the tourist inns, and many of the locals go about their lives much like their ancestors did—wearing loincloths, milling rice by hand, weaving clothes with handlooms, and chewing a fiery mix of betel nut and lime.

Vanishing culture

But some have adjusted quickly to a cash-based economy, leading to fears that the local culture will soon disappear.

"The culture of the people there is eroding faster than the terraces," Augusto Villalon, head of the Philippine committee of the Paris-based International Council on Monuments and Sites, said in an interview in Manila. *AFP*





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2,000 trees planted to preserve fruit bats

SAN JUAN, BATANGAS—WITH slash-and-burn farming wiping out the habitat of giant fruit bats in the mountains of San Juan, residents planted on Sunday 2,000 fruit seedlings in order to restore the bats' homes.

The project is part of the Green Philippines program of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which aims to plant around 20 million trees during the year nationwide.

Fruit bats live only in the tropical and subtropical regions of the Eastern Hemisphere—particularly in Africa, Asia, Australasia and Oceania.

They feed either by eating fruits or licking nectar from flowers.

Bat time

Residents of Barangay Laiya Aplaya in San Juan usually observe fruit bats flying in the night sky at 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Councilor Noel Pasco, however, said in an interview that slash-and-burn farming, or "*kaingin*," in the mountains had effectively destroyed fruit trees, which are habitats of the bats.

He claimed that based on municipal records, the giant fruit bat population in the San Juan–Lobo Mountain Range had already diminished to only 1,000 today from around 10,000 in the 1900s.

Planted within the mountains and riverbanks in Laiya Aplaya were seedlings of guava, *langka* (breadfruit), *atis* and casuy.

Target

Pasco said more trees would be planted in the coming weeks in order to reach the 4,000-target for the year.

He said the seedlings would bear fruit in three years, which would help restore the bat habitat by providing food and shelter to the species.

The official added that the newly planted seedlings would help fight global warming and soil erosion in the mountain areas.

In a trip with Pasco's group at the San Juan–Lobo Mountain Range, the INQUIRER witnessed pruned fruit trees as a result of *kaingin* along the slopes.

There were even men in horses carrying sacks of charcoal to the plains.

Residents said the charcoal was being purchased by Manila traders for P150 per sack.

Education lack

Barangay chair Wensley Llana recognized that the mountain people's lack of formal education and livelihood were driving them to slash-and-burn farming, which destroys the forest and reduces the bat population.

He said at least 150 people were now depending on *kaingin* for survival despite a prohibition under the Philippine Forestry Code.

"There's a strong possibility of bat extinction if we don't act now," he said.

To prevent further deforestation, the municipal government and the village officials plan to enforce a total ban in the transport of forest products, like wood and charcoal from the mountains by Dec. 10.

Llana said the enforcement would start with information dissemination.

San Juan, a first-class municipality in Batangas about 115 kilometers from Manila, is popular for its white sand beaches. *Marlon Alexander Luistro, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

300,000 ha of forests now in private hands

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Nearly 300,000 hectares of forest land in Central Luzon are now in the hands of private corporations, cooperatives and individuals through various agreements, documents from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources showed.

The figure represented about 38 percent of the 589,497 ha of forest land in the region, according to the DENR.

Asked what has been the government's policy for the remaining forests, DENR regional executive director Regidor de Leon said: "We welcome investors who would want to develop forest areas. If they qualify, we shall issue them tenurial agreements."

'We welcome investors who would want to develop forest areas...'

Corporate work

At least 550,922 ha of forest are within timberlands while 38,575 ha are within alienable or disposable lands, according to satellite mappings done by the National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (Namria) and the Forest Management Bureau in 2003.

Corporate forestry contracts represent a bulk of plantations as of Oct. 15.

Two timber license agreements (TLAs) signed in Aurora during the administration of then President Ferdinand Marcos reached 36,688 ha.

The 22 industrial forest management agreements (Ifmas) in Aurora, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Zambales covered 110,333 ha.

The 287 socialized industrial forest management agreement (Sifmas) reached 8,620 ha, more than half of which are in Tarlac.

Long term

DENR records showed that 125 community-based forest management agreements (CBFMA) covered 69,129 ha while family-based and private tree plantations reached 5,195 ha.

Ifma, processed through DENR Administrative Order No. 99-53 for 500 ha and up, last for 25 years and are renewable for 25 more years.

Production activities in all those agreements are within timberlands, according to Fred Sadueste, chief of the DENR regional forest resources conservation division.

Citing results of validation, Sadueste said the agreements did not encroach on protected areas such as watersheds, national parks, wilderness, bird sanctuaries, military and civilian reservations, experimental forests, forests that are 1,000 meters above sea level and those in slopes above 50 degrees.

Sadueste confirmed reports of a rising number of applications in forest areas. Four are pending at the regional office, covering not less than 15,000 ha.

Deluge of applications

He said the DENR offices in cities and provinces were "processing more applications."

De Leon dismissed reports that tenurial agreements were being used as fronts for illegal logging.

"(That will not happen) within the present system where the local governments and people's organizations are active in monitoring," he said.

"We detect all the activities. DENR people are extra vigilant," he said.

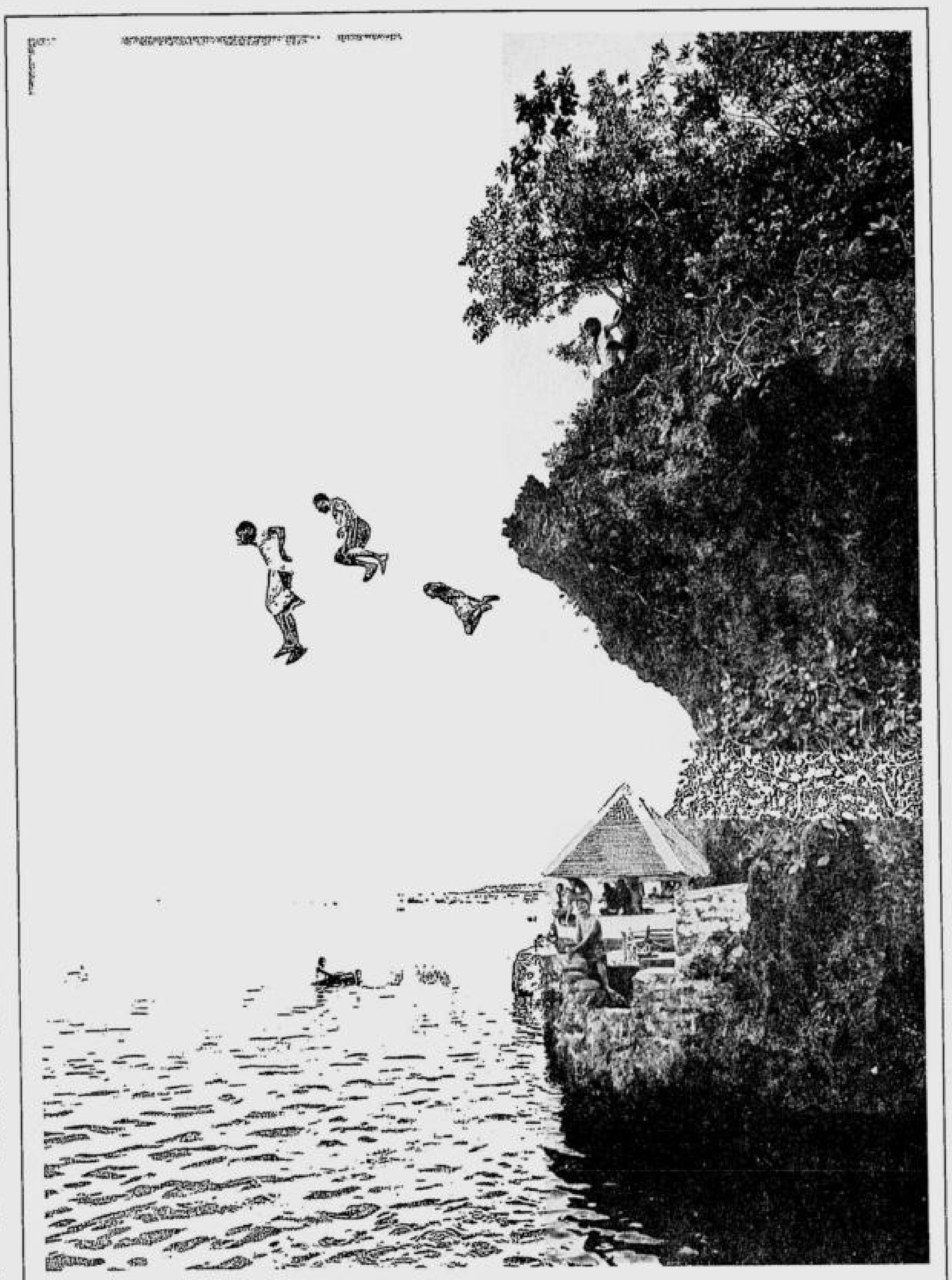
Reports reaching the INQUIRER said that the agreements were used as access to thickly forested areas.

Except for those covered by Ifmas that had been approved more than 10 years ago, most of the plantations were not expected to harvest or transport logs this year or the next two years, Sadueste said.

"Much of the plantations are young," he said.

De Leon said a log ban had been imposed in Aurora, which has the largest forest cover in Central Luzon at 238,776 ha.

The ban was maintained in Aurora and Quezon following the November and December 2004 landslides that killed more than 700 people there. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*



TAKE THE PLUNGE ERIK ARAZAS

From a distance, these brave, young men look like windswept creatures flying over the sea in Liliputan, Eastern Samar. They had actually taken the plunge from a cliff in the town, ignoring the danger such daredevil act carries.

State of calamity declared in Cagayan

TUGUEGARAO CITY—THE provincial board of Cagayan declared the province under a state of calamity on Monday after damage to crops, livestock and infrastructure left by Typhoon "Mina" last week reached P400 million.

The declaration was recommended by Gov. Alvaro Antonio, also chair of the provincial disaster coordinating council, after an assessment of typhoon damage here.

The board, however, asked the provincial government to appeal to President Macapagal-Arroyo for more calamity funds since the province has only P26 million left for that purpose.

Local officials said three bridges were damaged and needed immediate repair.

Residents of Rizal town, they said, needed help because relief goods could not be delivered because the Mauanang River remained swollen.

The provincial government asked the provincial social welfare and development office to do everything it could to reach residents of Rizal.

The provincial board asked concerned agencies to buy carabaos and distribute them to farmers, either through loans or grants. *Estanislao Caldez, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Estafa cases filed vs 8 in power co-op scams

CALAMBA CITY—THE PROSECUTOR's office of Lipa City has endorsed the filing of criminal cases against eight former officers of the Batangas II Electric Cooperative (Batelec II) for their alleged participation in two corruption-marred projects of the country's biggest electric cooperative.

Charged with estafa before the regional trial court in Lipa were Reynaldo Panaligan, past president of the power coop's board of directors, and former board members Tita Matulin, Jose Rizal Remo, Isagani Casalme, Cipriano Roxas, Cesario Gutierrez, Celso Landicho and Eduardo Tagle.

Computerization project

The cases stemmed from the controversial awarding of a P75-million computerization project to a 9-day-old company, which had a paid-up capital of only P62,500, more than two years ago.

The charges, filed by incumbent Batelec II board president Ruperto Manalo, included alleged overpricing in the purchase of 10 boom trucks worth P6.1 million.

Panaligan, a reporter of the Manila Bulletin newspaper, and his co-accused allegedly conspired to pass a resolution that awarded the multimillion-peso computerization deal to I-solv Technologies Inc. (I-solv) on April 15, 2005, barely nine days after the company obtained a registration from the Securities and Exchange Commission.

No bidding

State prosecutors Florencio dela Cruz and Nolibien Quiambao, who conducted the preliminary investigation, forwarded the criminal case to the Lipa RTC on Nov. 20.

They said the accused "with abuse of confidence, conspired willfully, unlawfully and feloniously to defraud the cooperative by entering into a contract" with I-solv without proper bidding.

The accused failed to get the approval of the National Electrification Administration (NEA), the government agency which has supervision over all electric cooperatives, before starting the project, the prosecutors said.

No safeguards

They said the accused also did not ensure "safeguards in the contract to protect the interest of Batelec II consumers such as provisions for a performance bond, penalty clause in case I-solv defaults on the project, and cost per unit of the services."

The decision of Panaligan and his group was "damaging and prejudicial" to the consumer-members of the power co-op, they said.

They noted that despite the payment of more than P72 million, I-solv has yet to fully install the new computer system of Batelec II.

In a statement, Manalo said that although the present officers were pleased with the filing of the cases, they were upset after the prosecutors did not file a syndicated estafa against Panaligan and his group. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Ex-driver builds giant Santas for children

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CLARK FREEPORT—LEAVING a life of driving for a rich family and then reinventing himself as a craftsman proved right for Fred Velasques.

On Saturday, Velasques buoyed sagging spirits amid the Christmas season by making a 20-foot figure of a sitting and smiling Santa Claus that SM City Clark touts to be the biggest in the Philippines.

This piece made from fiberglass, which he and his 21 employees carved, came in the 11th year of his business, Candellero Handicraft.

"We made many people happy, especially the children," Velasques, 55, told the INQUIRER minutes after SM executives, Pampanga Gov. Eddie Panlilio and Clark International Airport Corp. executive vice president Alex Cauguiran unveiled the giant Santa Claus in a red-carpet event.

His company did not charge anything for this undertaking.

"Seeing smiles on the faces of young and old mall goers was enough," Velasques said.

Around 2,000 shoppers filled the first and second floors near the event center to catch a glimpse of the Yuletide character.

Velasques and his family have settled and done business in Mabalacat, Pampanga, since starting the enterprise in 1996.

It took two months for his team to finish their first giant figure.

With business partner Delia Mojica, he had been making life-size images of animals, cartoon characters or real-life personalities for garden resorts and museums. They also make small figures for home displays.

"We started with just P20,000 in capital," Velasques said.

Resin and fiberglass are his media.

He measured the firm's success by the stable employment it gives to at least 30 workers.

And, of course, that includes not anymore living on a low monthly wage.

He ended his career in driving because "*walang asenso dun* (I won't earn enough)."

His employer, a resident of a plush subdivision in Makati City, let him go and bade him good luck.

Velasques said he gathered all the courage he could for the career change.

He said he finished only first year in high school and ventured in a field that he hardly knew but was willing to try.

"This entailed industry and hard work," Velasques said.

Michelle Catap, a staff member of the SM City Clark public relations department, said Velasques offered to make the giant Santa Claus to be able to "spread joy to the children."

FRED VELASQUES swears he has no regrets leaving a driving job. His 11-year-old business made what the SM City Clark touts as the biggest ever fiberglass image of Santa Claus in the Philippines.

TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

Catap said Velasques asked that big carton boxes be placed around it to receive donations of toys for poor children. SM City Clark would turn over the donations to the Department of Social Welfare and Development in Pampanga.

BUSINESS AS USUAL CHRISTMAS AS USUAL AT THE PENINSULA

The Peninsula Manila family is happy to announce that we are now open. Join us as we celebrate the spirit of the holiday season with our traditional Christmas Concert at The Pen this Saturday, December 8, 5:00 pm, at The Lobby. It's our way of thanking you for your continued patronage and support this past year. We look forward to sharing an unforgettable celebration with you and your loved ones. Merry Christmas!

THE PENINSULA
MANILA

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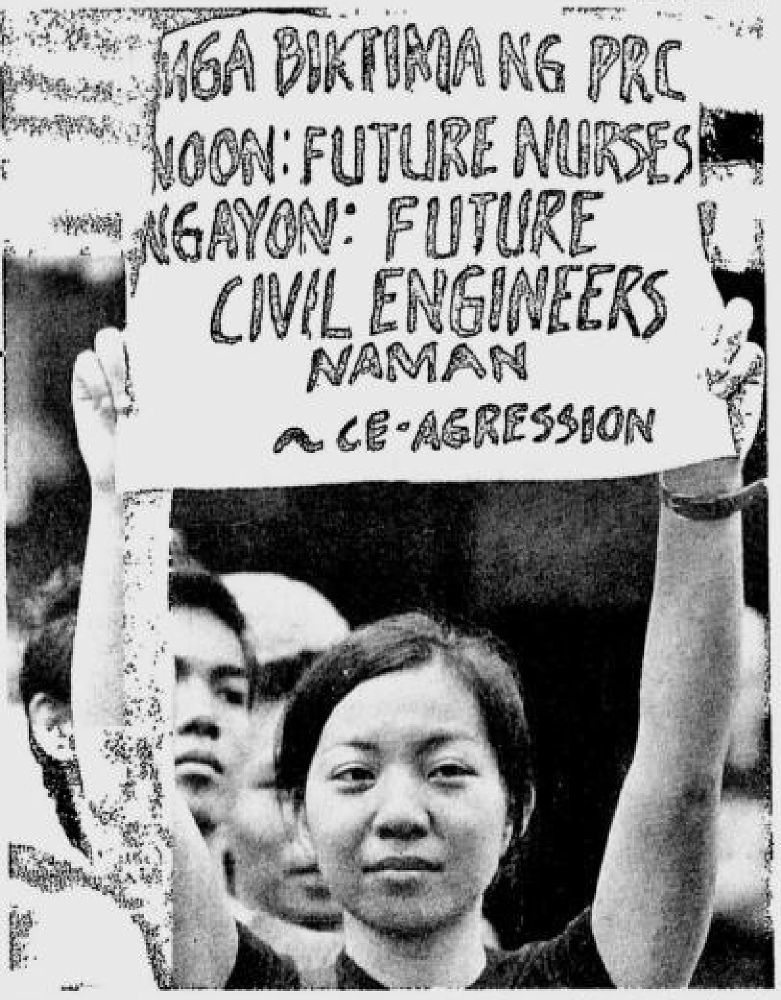
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil
Website: www.inquirer.net/metro

Examinees ask PRC: Scrap test retake order

Due process first before voiding results, say petitioners



A CIVIL engineering graduate joins a rally in front of the Professional Regulation Commission office in Manila after the agency ordered a retake of two subjects in the Nov. 17 and 18 board exams. REM ZAMORA

By Margaux C. Ortiz

MORE THAN 100 EXAMINEES DURING THE Nov. 17 and 18 civil engineering licensure tests held a rally yesterday to demand that the Professional Regulation Commission set aside its decision nullifying the results of the examinations and ordering a retake on Jan. 12 next year.

Examinees Neil Erich Galicia and Dianne May Casimiro, who spearheaded the protest in front of the PRC office on Nicanor Reyes Street in Manila, said it was their duty and responsibility to protest against the injustice being committed against them.

"We are not afraid of retaking the examinations, but due process is needed before the PRC can decide on nullifying the results of two of our subjects," Galicia, a graduate of Ateneo de Naga, said in an interview.

More than 4,700 civil engineering graduates took the board exams last Nov. 17 and 18.

On Nov. 26, the PRC announced that the test results in two of the three subjects—Hydraulics and Geotechnical Engineering and Structural Engineering and Construction—would be nullified after two examinees were caught cheating in the two areas. The two were found to have used cell phones which contained answers to 30 questions, 21 of which turned out to be correct.

Galicia said the actions of the two should not be taken against other examinees who are innocent.

"It is also wrong to compare our situation with that of the June 2006 nursing licensure examinees," he added, stressing that while the nursing licensure exams involved the leakage of test answers, the civil engineering board exams entailed the alleged cheating done by only two examinees.

In their petition asking the PRC to reconsider its decision and immediately order the release of the results of the Nov. 17 and 18 board exams, Casimiro and more than 200 graduates reasoned that they got high marks in the hydraulics subject because the questions presented were "basic, fundamental and elementary concepts which future civil engineers should and must know."

The PRC had said that "after evaluation of the examination results in the Hydraulics and Geotechnical Engineering subject, it found the results to be statistically improbable considering the unusually high grades or ratings obtained by the examinees."

The examinees also described as alarming the government agency's statement.

"For one, there is no law, or any rule, regulation, resolution, or memorandum issued by the Honorable Commission that makes 'unusually high grade/rating' a ground for nullifying examination results," they said.

The petitioners also pointed out that "There is likewise no evidence to link the high grades or ratings obtained by the examinees in Hydraulics and Geotechnical Engineering to the discovery of the mobile phones."

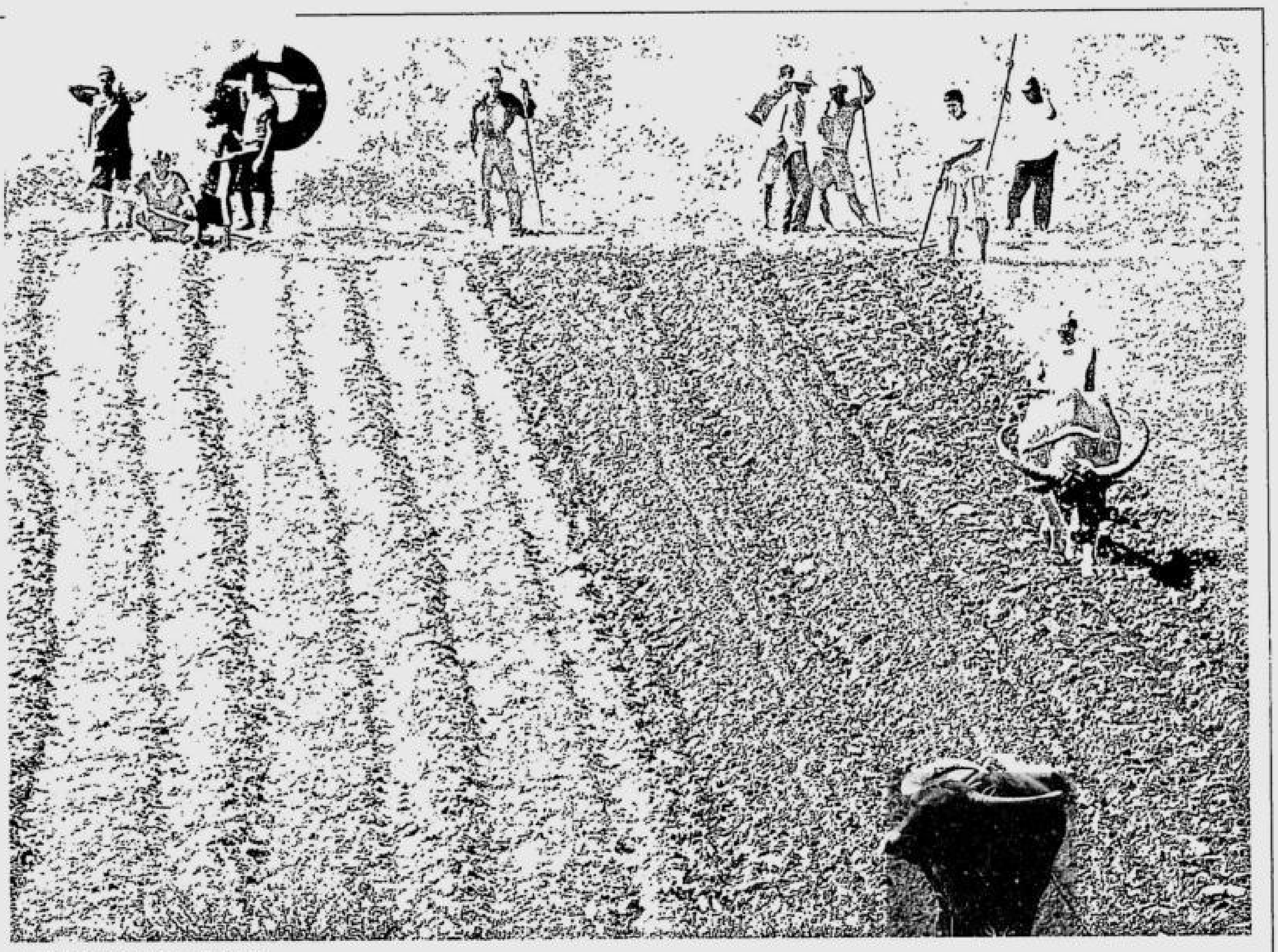
Jobert Pahilga, lawyer of the civil engineering graduates, said that if the PRC fails to act on their petition, they would try to obtain a temporary restraining order from the court.

The TRO, Pahilga explained, would hopefully prevent the PRC from holding the second set of examinations on Jan. 12.

"PRC Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero's secretary promised us that she would meet the examinees within the week," Casimiro said.

"We should be able to take our oath on Dec. 15 and apply for jobs after that. Unfortunately, our lives have been put on hold because of this," she added.

The INQUIRER tried to talk to Rosero but her secretary said that she was unavailable.



A FARM IN THE CITY

Residents of Barangay Batasan Hills in Fairview, Quezon City watch as a farmer and his carabao prepare a lot for the planting of *singkamas* and peanuts. RODEL ROTONI

Food awareness program launched in Mandaluyong

By Kristine L. Alave

EAT YOUR VEGETABLES AND do better in school.

This was the message of officials from the education and health departments yesterday as they launched a food awareness program to encourage schoolchildren to eat nutritious meals and not junk food.

The two departments, along with Nissin-Universal Robina Corp., kicked off the project at the Eulogio Rodriguez Elementary School in Mandaluyong City.

The initiative is part of the joint campaign of the Department of Education and the Department of Health to inculcate healthy eating habits among schoolchildren.

Every year, the DepEd and the DOH, along with a private partner, conduct a school-to-school nationwide campaign that seeks to institutionalize nutrient supplementing and feeding activities.

According to the DepEd, there are 3.67 million malnourished children in the country, or about a quarter of the total number of students in the elementary level.

Health Undersecretary Ethelyn Nieto talked to elementary students about the benefits of eating fruits, vegetables and doing regular exercises.

According to Nieto, the junk food that most children eat contain too much sugar and other chemicals that lead to lifestyle diseases such as cancer and diabetes.

"That's why the older generations live longer. They didn't have junk food," she told the students.

Renee Yabut, Nissin-Universal product manager, said her company and the government agencies would bring health experts and nutritionists to the various schools to discuss food intake with the children.

Beware of unlicensed optometrists, NBI warns

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF Investigation yesterday warned the public to watch out for unlicensed optometrists working in some optical shops.

The warning came after the recent arrest by agents of the NBI National Capital Region of two women who had posed as eye doctors in Antipolo City and Cainta, Rizal province.

Charged with violating Republic Act 8050 or the Revised Optical Law of 1997 were Maria Anita Calpito, 38, and Marlene Carlos, 36, both employees of the Ace-deo Optical Clinic.

The suspects were optometry graduates but they did not have a license from the Professional Regulation Commission, the NBI said.

They were arrested based on a complaint filed by Dr. Charlie Ho, national president of the Integrated Philippine Association of Optometrists, who claimed that he had received information that Ace-deo Optical, reportedly owned by Dr. Maria Medarlene San Agustin-Gatapia, was allegedly employing unlicensed optometrists, the NBI added.

The suspects were arrested after they conducted an eye examination of NBI agents who had posed as customers.

Gatapia will also be charged administratively in the PRC and the Philippine Board of Optometry, said lawyer Edward Villarta, chief of the NBI-NCR.

Cops pursue crackdown on dogfights in Rizal

By Kristine L. Alave

THE POLICE YESTERDAY vowed to continue their crackdown on dogfights as they observed that more and more young people are betting and participating in the illegal game.

Chief Insp. Jess Kabigting, head of the Region IV-Special Operations Group (RSOG) which raided a farm in Tanay, Rizal province where a dogfight was held on Saturday evening, said that most of the 69 persons arrested during the operation were young and affluent.

Some of them came from Metro Manila and outlying provinces. There were also others who told the police that they had flown in from Iloilo just to join the game.

Kabigting noted that the bets ranged from P50,000 to P100,000 and dog owners are lured into joining because of the huge cash prizes at stake.

According to him, the Police Regional Office IV-A, led by Chief Supt. Ricardo Padilla, would continue its crackdown on dogfight clubs, saying animal cruelty is against the law.

Kabigting identified the organizer of the dogfight arena in Tanay as Jun Cuevas, a resident of Binangonan, Rizal.

Cuevas was arrested in Manrose Farm in Barangay Sampaloc when the police raided the area at around 6:30 p.m. Saturday based on a tip from an informant.

Sixteen pit bull dogs were rescued from the arena.

Police said the dogs had sustained wounds from fighting and would be turned over to animal welfare groups for treatment.

All the arrested persons would be charged with violating the Animal Welfare Act and illegal gambling, the police said.

This was the second high profile dogfight club raid conducted in Rizal province, which animal rights groups consider the center of the illegal game.

Last March, the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group raided a dogfight arena in Antipolo City and arrested 14 people, including three Thais who flew into the country with their pit bulls just to participate in the game.

96 'colorum' vehicles plying Metro routes impounded

By Abigail L. Ho

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY-led Presidential Task Force on Kontra-Kotong and Kolorum (PTF-KKK) has so far impounded 96 public transport vehicles operating illegally in Metro Manila.

Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said the operations against so-called "colorum" (illegal) vehicles were conducted on Nov. 26, 28 and 29.

The areas covered were Baclaran, the Mall of Asia, McKinley Road, SM North Edsa, C-5 Road, Kalayaan Avenue, Katipunan Road and Marcos Highway in Libis, Quezon City.

The task force, which has until Dec. 15 to rid streets in the metropolis of colorum vehicles, was formed mainly to protect public utility vehicle drivers and their operators from unfair competition. In return, the PUV drivers and operators promised not to ask for a fare hike.

The confiscated vehicles were taken to the Ultra compound in Ortigas. They can be claimed by their owners after payment of the corresponding fine.

Most of the drivers whose vehicles were impounded had been apprehended for plying a route outside their franchise, for operating without a franchise or registration or for driving a vehicle with defective parts or accessories.

Reyes said the task force would continue operating until it meets its goal of ridding Metro streets of illegally operating transport vehicles.

DID YOU KNOW

IN 1579, Pope Gregory XIII issued a Papal Bull establishing the Diocese of Manila. In the same year, King Philip II of Spain recommended Dominican priest Fray Domingo de Salazar for the position of bishop of Manila.

Salazar left Spain in May 1580 and reached Manila on Sept. 17, 1581. Days later, he started the construction of the Manila Cathedral to replace the old parish church. The first Manila Cathedral was made of wood, bamboo and nipa.

Fray Domingo de Salazar passed away on Dec. 4, 1594.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Court junks petition filed vs Pasay City SK polls bet

By Julie M. Aurelio

A PASAY CITY COURT HAS DEnied a petition seeking to prevent Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad's son from taking over as president of the city's Sangguniang Kabataan Federation.

According to Judge Edwin Ramizo of the Pasay City Regional Trial Court Branch 114, the petitioners failed to "establish extreme urgency and that they will suffer grave injustice and irreparable injury by reason of the … SK Federation officers."

Ramizo's decision, which was signed on Nov. 28, was prompted by a petition filed several weeks ago by Denise Erika Pesebre and several other SK chairs who won in the Oct. 29 synchronized barangay and SK elections.

Pesebre and the others had asked the court to declare as null and void the results of the SK Federation elections held last Nov. 11.

Named in their petition was Jon Trinidad, son of the Pasay mayor. The young Trinidad, as SK chair of Barangay 88, had been elected president of the city's SK Federation.

In their petition, Pesebre pointed out that since she and the other newly elected SK chairs have yet to assume office on Nov. 30, they have no legal capacity to elect or be elected as officers of the SK Federation.

Ramizo, however, pointed out that the petitioners were unable to show that they would suffer "irreparable injury" after the election of the SK Federation officers was held earlier than scheduled.

According to Pesebre's petition, the Department of the Interior and Local Government had set the federation elections on Dec. 6.

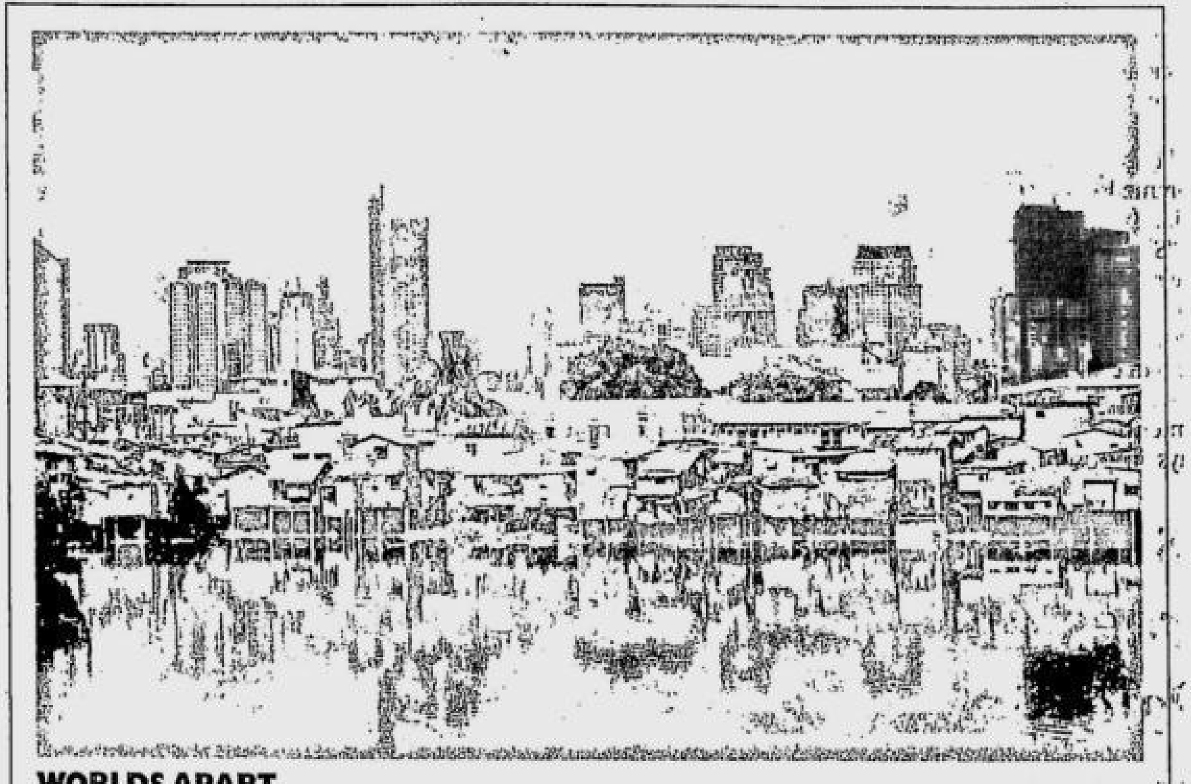
"Even if the election of officers and board members of the Liga and SK Federation (already) took place, the newly elected officers cannot assume, exercise and discharge the rights, duties and powers as such. This is so because their term of office will only commence at noon of Nov. 30," Ramizo explained.

"Therefore, there being no act to be restrained, there is no reason for the court to grant the issuance of a temporary restraining order," he added.

In their defense, Trinidad and the other officials had pointed out that since the federation election should be held under the supervision of the DILG, the case should also be resolved by the DILG and not by the court.

They added that the matter had already been brought to the attention of the DILG as Mayor Trinidad was asked to comment on a DILG special report on the incident.

"As regards the issue of jurisdiction, the court resolves to hold in abeyance the resolution of the said matter," Ramizo said in his five-page order.



WORLDS APART EDWIN BACASMAS
Skyscrapers in Makati City tower over a community of shanties in Maricaban, Pasay City.

Man on stabbing rampage disarmed by off-duty cop

By Jeannette I. Andrade

AN OFF-DUTY POLICEMAN saved the lives of churchgoers in Novaliches, Quezon City, Sunday night when he shot and disarmed a man who went on a stabbing spree with a 13-inch kitchen knife.

Police reports said that PO2 Jose Anthony Arim, 30, assigned at the National Capital Region Police Office Regional Headquarters Support Group, was attending Mass with his family at the Our Lady of Mercy Parish Church on Susano Road, in front of the Susano Market, when he noticed a commotion outside.

He told the INQUIRER that he first made sure his wife and 5-year-old daughter were safe before he went outside the church to see what the matter was.

"I saw a man running trying to stab innocent bystanders with his long knife. I suspected that he was very drunk," the police officer said in Filipino, referring to the suspect, Rey Barantes.

Arim said he immediately drew his .9mm service firearm and introduced himself as a policeman, ordering Barantes to lay down his weapon. However, the suspect lunged at him, leaving him with no choice but to shoot to defend himself, he added.

Barantes was hit in the abdomen and left shoulder. He is still undergoing treatment at the Quezon City General Hospital.

"He was attacking people. I could not allow that to happen even if I was not on duty," Arim said. The police officer immediately surrendered and handed over his service firearm and the suspect's knife to the Quezon City Police District-Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit.

Barantes, it was learned, had just been released from the Quezon City Jail.

The buck stops at GMA's doorsteps

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE PENINSULA MANILA OVERKILL betrayed the desperation of the Arroyo administration in showing that it was in control.

The administration shot itself in the foot when it had media people covering the "coup-medy" arrested, handcuffed and bundled off to Bicutan.

Even during the martial law years, media people covering hostage-taking and plane-hijacking situations were left alone to do their job.

Knowing the mind of President Gloria, she issued the arrest order, then backed down and expressed "regret that police procedures became a problem for media, even for a few hours."

Result: The police, who were just following orders from Malacañang, got all the blame.

I have known Director General Sonny Razon, chief of the Philippine National Police, for a number of years.

Until last Thursday's "coup," Razon was friendly to the media.

Journalists had easy access to him, and he was quite chummy with them.

I have also known the President up close and personal, that's why I'm saying this: When the going gets rough, she blames everybody but herself.

I'd like to go back to that time when I asked the President's permission to look into the alleged smuggling activities of two siblings. She readily acceded.

GMA even told me, through her then Chief of Staff Mike Defensor, that she would have a reason to go after the siblings because of my column.

When her husband, Mike Arroyo, got back at me, I thought the President would come to my aid and tell him to stop harassing me and my brothers Raffy and Erwin.

(Raffy and Erwin became collateral damage in my tiff with Mike Arroyo.)

Instead, the President adopted a "hands-off" policy even when my television and radio programs were cancelled later and I, together with this paper's editors, were charged with libel.

I tried to reach GMA to remind her about our agreement, but she wouldn't talk to me.

* * *

PNP Director General Razon is taking the rap for his Commander in Chief for ordering the rough treatment of media people who covered the comedy of errors at the Peninsula Hotel last Thursday.

That's what subordinates are for: Take the blame for their superior when things go wrong and stay in the sidelines while their superior basks in reflected glory.

So, fellow media people, let's not blame Razon for the Peninsula booboo.

* * *

President Gloria told her Cabinet and top military and police officials to "not unnecessary rile the media at this point in time."

But the police and military wouldn't have treated the media the way they did at the Peninsula incident without orders from top authorities.

I've covered the military and police beats for a number of years.

I know the frame of mind of men in uniform when it comes to dealing with the media.

They can be friendly or antagonistic depending upon orders from their superiors.

Well, Ma'am, I don't blame you since you're not US President Harry Truman who took the blame with these famous words: "The buck stops here" (meaning him).

The government is investigating the role media, especially ABS-CBN, played in the Peninsula incident.

What gall!

Just because the government gets a beating from the public, it wants to blame media for the overkill and the comedy at the Peninsula?

Even if the government filed a criminal case against the media people who were arrested at the Peninsula—that is, if they could find a crime or a violation anywhere in the Revised Penal Code—which judge would have the gumption to convict them?

METROBRIEFS

Count your change, police warn shoppers

AFTER doing your Christmas shopping in Divisoria, count your change before you leave. Manila policemen aired this warning to shoppers after they arrested a sidewalk vendor for shortchanging one of his customers. Reynaldo Santos, 49, of Parola Compound, Tondo, Manila, was later charged with estafa. Earlier, Rosalie Gingaya, 24, told the police that on Nov. 28, she bought three face towels from Santos for P30 and gave him P500. The suspect, she said, excused himself because he did not have enough change. He later returned with a wad of P20, P50 and P100 bills and counted out her change. When she came home, she later discovered that she was missing P200.

Allison W. Lopez

Caloocan, Calamba now sister-cities

CALOOCAN and Calamba have signed a memorandum of agreement making them sister-cities. The agreement was signed recently at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel by Caloocan City Mayor Enrico Echiverri and Calamba Mayor Joaquin Chipeco Jr. In a joint statement, the two leaders were optimistic the move would further foster the historical and cultural links of the two cities. "We are together because both our cities are historical and we promised to help each other in times of crisis and disaster," the officials said.

Nancy C. Carvajal

Creativity seminar-workshop for educators set

THE ALBERTO Enrico Educational Center (AEEC) will conduct a one-day seminar workshop on creativity, $Æ_{sm}= M_{wbt}(C_{1x}C_{2x}C_{3x}C_{4x})$ Using Creativity for More Effective School Management, for principals and administrators on Dec. 12 at the Holiday Inn, Clark Field, Pampanga. The AEEC is a publishing and training center based in Marikina City. Those interested may call Marge and Mia at 6474374, 6473761, 6479054 and 6464020.

Cipriano Pacubas; 83

CIPRIANO Pacubas, a retired education department district supervisor, died on Nov. 27 from cardiopulmonary disease in Quezon City. He was 83 years old. He is survived by his wife, Marcela and children Bellie, Boy, Lito and Malou. Before his death, Pacubas was a Freemason active in the Narra Lodge 171. He will be interred today, Nov. 4, at the San Jose Cemetery in Cabanatuan City.

Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(ZAMCELCO)
Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO BID

The Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMCELCO) at Putik, this city per requisite under Board Policies on Pre-Qualifications, and Bids and Awards, invites ALL interested Bidders/Suppliers to bid for the supply of the following electrical materials/equipment/items, to wit:

No.	Quantity	Unit	Item Description
1	36	PCS	ANCHOR EXPANDING TYPE AGENCY PRICE : P 408.00
2	42	PCS	BOLT, EYE 5/8 X 9 AGENCY PRICE : P 70.82
3	23	PCS	BOLT, EYE 5/8 X 10 AGENCY PRICE : P73.95
4	2	PCS	BOLT, EYE 5/8 X 18 AGENCY PRICE : P 90.48
5	4	PCS	BOLT, MACHINE 1/2 X 6 AGENCY PRICE : P 15.74
6	6	PCS	BOLT, MACHINE 1/2 X 10 AGENCY PRICE : P 29.23
7	22	PCS	BOLT, MACHINE 5/8 X 8 AGENCY PRICE : P 33.09
8	32	PCS	BOLT, MACHINE 5/8 X 10 AGENCY PRICE : P 35.24
9	28	PCS	BOLT, MACHINE 5/8 X 12 AGENCY PRICE : P 38.16
10	10	PCS	BOLT, SINGLE UPSET 5/8 X 10 AGENCY PRICE : P 63.11
11	10	PCS	BOLT, DOUBLE UPSET 5/8 X 10 AGENCY PRICE : P 69.12
12	18	PCS	BRACKET SECONDARY DEADEND AGENCY PRICE : P 88.25
13	6	PCS	CLAMP SUSPENSION AGENCY PRICE : P 495.18
14	8	PCS	CLAMP BONDING AGENCY PRICE : P 38.62
15	72	PCS	CLAMP GUY DEADEND 3 BOLT AGENCY PRICE : P 127.79
16	8	PCS	CLAMP LOOP DEADEND AGENCY PRICE : P 41.58
17	10	PCS	CLAMP DEADEND STRAIN (GUN TYPE) AGENCY PRICE : P 398.71
18	3	PCS	CLAMP HOTLINE AGENCY PRICE : P 300.45
19	28	PCS	CLEVIS SECONDARY SWINGING AGENCY PRICE : P 66.84
20	6	PCS	CLEVIS SHACKLE ANCHOR AGENCY PRICE : P 88.44
21	7500	MTRS	CONDUCTOR BARE #1/0 ACSR AGENCY PRICE : P 36.33
22	5000	MTRS	CONDUCTOR BARE #2 ACSR AGENCY PRICE : P 24.20
23	500	MTRS	CONDUCTOR DUPLEX #2 AGENCY PRICE : P 49.68
24	12	PCS	CONNECTOR COMP. YHD 150 AGENCY PRICE : P 72.11
25	2	PCS	CROSSARM 8 AGENCY PRICE : P1,520.64
26	3	SETS	CUT-OUT ARR. COMB. W/ L.A. AGENCY PRICE : P 5,056.73
27	2	UNITS	DIST. TRANSFORMER, 10KVA CONV. AGENCY PRICE : P 45,311.35
28	2	PCS	FUSE LINK, 3A TYPE K AGENCY PRICE : P 99.39
29	1	PC	FUSE LINK, 6A TYPE K AGENCY PRICE : P 106.76
30	72	PCS	GUY HOOK J-TYPE AGENCY PRICE : P 34.67
31	24	PCS	INSULATOR SPOOL 3 DIA. AGENCY PRICE : P 34.35
32	32	PCS	INSULATOR SPOOL 1-3/4 DIA. AGENCY PRICE : P 17.60
33	68	PCS	LOCK NUT 5/8 AGENCY PRIOE : P 7.61
34	5	PCS	NUT, LOCK 1/2 AGENCY PRICE : P 7.61
35	8	PCS	NUT, OVAL EYE 5/8 AGENCY PRICE : P68.61
36	4	PCS	PIN, CROSSARM LONG SHANK AGENCY PRICE : P 161.38
37	50	PCS	PIN, INSULATOR 7 - .6KV AGENCY PRICE : P 110.13
38	46	PCS	PIN, POLE TOP 20 LONG AGENCY PRICE : P 161.38
39	36	PCS	ROD ANCHOR 5/8 X 7 AGENCY PRICE : P 286.50
40	16	PCS	INSULATOR SUSPENSION (SILICONE) AGENCY PRICE : P 1,552.00
41	62	PCS	WASHER SQUARE 2-1/4IN. (5/8) AGENCY PRICE : P 10.15
42	36	PCS	WASHER SQUARE FLAT 4 X 4 X 1/2 AGENCY PRICE : P 70.59
43	1200	FT	WIRE GUY, 3/8 7 STRAND AGENCY PRICE : P 18.90 NOTE: FOR CALIBATU, LAMISAHAN LINE EXTENSION PROJECT

You may secure the Pre-qualification Requirements from the office of the Finance Department, ZAMCELCO Complex in Putik, this city anytime during office hours and submit the same upon completion of all requirements thereof.

Submission of the Pre-qualification Requirements shall not be later than 5:00 pm of December 11, 2007 and no documents appertaining thereto, shall be accepted thereafter.

All applicants will be duly notified as to the results of the pre-qualification eligibility process. Only those who are pre-qualified will be allowed to participate in the bidding. A post-qualification may be conducted accordingly hereafter.

Bidding will be conducted on December 20, 2007.

Sealed bid in duplicate copies should be submitted to the Committee on Bids and Awards at the office of the Finance Department at the above-mentioned address on or before 2:00 p.m. of December 20, 2007. Five percent (5%) Bidder's Bond is required as a matter of policy.

The right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the coop is hereby reserved as an absolute prerogative of ZAMCELCO.

(Sgd.) **REINERIO R. RAMOS**
General Manager

(PDI–Dec. 3 & 4, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
ADVANCED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE
ASTI Bldg., Technology Park Complex,
C.P. Garcia Ave., U.P. Campus
Diliman 1101 Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. (632) 426-3694/426-9764 Fax: (632) 426-9764

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI), Department of Science and Technology invites bonafide suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following item:

ONE UNIT OF DVD DUPLICATOR

The Bid documents shall be available at the ASTI Property Section from December 04, 2007 upon payment of non-refundable fee in the amount of P1,000.00.

Eligibility documents, technical and financial proposals (2 copies each) in three envelopes must be submitted at the ASTI-BAC Secretariat, ASTI Bldg. C.P. Garcia Ave., U.P. Diliman, Quezon City not later than 02:00 p.m. on December 13, 2007 and shall be opened at the ASTI Training Room, Ground Floor ASTI Bldg., C.P. Garcia Ave., U.P. Diliman, Quezon City, on the same date in the presence of the participating bidder.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat at Tel. No. 426-9764 and 426-3694 and you may look for Ms. Neth Caser or Ms. Liza Cleriana.

ASTI-BAC reserves the right to waive any formality in the response to the eligibility requirements and to this invitation. ASTI-BAC further reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or declare a failure of bdding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JOSE ERIC S. MAGLANQUE**
Chairman

(PDI - Dec. 4, 2007)

Sudan pardons British 'teddy bear' teacher

KHARTOUM—SUDANESE PRESident Omar al-Beshir on Monday pardoned a British woman teacher jailed for 15 days for insulting religion by naming a teddy bear after the Prophet Mohammed, a presidential advisor said.

"She was pardoned thanks to the mediation of Lord Ahmed and Baroness Warsi. She will be released in about an hour," Mahjoub Fadl Badri said.

A Sudanese court last Thursday sentenced Gillian Gibbons to 15 days in prison for insulting religion by naming a teddy bear after Islam's prophet at the exclusive English school where she taught in Khartoum.

Two British Muslim peers, Lord Nazir Ahmed and Baroness Sayeeda Warsi from the upper house of parliament were on Monday meeting Beshir at the Republican Palace after flying to Khartoum in order to secure a pardon.

Wearing a traditional white gown and turban, Beshir received the peers in a relaxed atmosphere at a plush room at the palace decorated with white gilt-upholstered sofas where reporters were briefly admitted.

The arrest and jail sentence of the 54-year-old mother of two sparked outrage in Britain and a diplomatic crisis between London and Khartoum, further straining relations already frayed over nearly five years of war in Darfur.

The British peers, who had been due to return home on Monday morning, delayed their departure at the last minute amid signs that their mission to secure Gibbons's release was gathering momentum.

"Some progress has been made. As a result of that progress and what we're hoping to achieve, we will not be leaving," Warsi told reporters late on Sunday.

Sudan enforces Islamic Sharia law in Khartoum, where alcohol is banned and most women dress modestly.

Thousands of people demonstrated on Friday after the main Muslim prayers in Khartoum, the conservative capital of the former British colony, against what they considered Gibbons's lenient sentence, with some calling for her death.

Sudan's Committee of Muslim scholars said in a statement in the local press that Gibbons should not be released early because she was handed such a light sentence.

Being found guilty of insulting religion and inciting hatred in Sudan is punishable by up to six months in prison, 40 lashes and a fine.

Gibbons is said to have been well-treated during her incarceration at the secret location where she was being held for her own safety. *AFP*

GIBBONS REUTERS

Israel frees 429 Palestinian prisoners

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK—Israel on Monday released 429 Palestinian prisoners, a gesture meant to strengthen moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas after both sides decided at last week's US-sponsored Mideast conference to try to reach a peace deal in 2008.

The prisoners, most of them from President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah movement, were given a joyous welcome as they arrived at military checkpoints in the West Bank and Gaza. Cars honked horns, tearful relatives raised Fatah flags and pictures of Abbas and some carried prisoners on their shoulders.

"There's nothing better than freedom," said Salem al-Saqqa, about 30, after he reached Gaza and kissed his mother. Al-Saqa had served four years of an 11-year term, and said Abbas must do everything he can to win the release of the thousands still imprisoned by Israel.

The prisoners had begun their journey at dawn, lining up in a courtyard at the Ketziot Prison Camp in the southern Negev Desert. Wardens and security agents sitting at tables checked names against a list, clamped handcuffs on the prisoners and put them on waiting buses heading to the West Bank and Gaza.

The Israeli prison service said it sent 408 to the West Bank and 21 to Gaza.

Parents of some prisoners said they were eager to make up for lost time.

Abdel Raouf Injas, 52, was waiting at the Beitouniya checkpoint in the West Bank to greet his son, 31-year-old Khaled, whose 12-year sentence was cut in half. Injas said he wanted to get Khaled married as quickly as possible, and said his son planned to study for a master's degree at a West Bank university.

Injas said he had two more sons in prison. "I'm feeling good, but it's incomplete," he said of the release.

Israel is holding about 9,000 prisoners. Their freedom is a central Palestinian demand, and Monday's release—the third since July—was intended to strengthen Abbas in his struggle against the Islamic Hamas by showing Palestinians that moderation pays. *AP*

HAUNTING IMAGE OF 2007

One of RNPS' Pictures of the Year: Sabira, mother of Sulejman Talovic, touches her son's face in an open casket before his funeral in the village of Talovici on March 3. The 18-year-old gunman shot five people to death in a Salt Lake City, Utah, shopping mall and was buried on Saturday in his native village in Bosnia. Sulejman was a survivor of the siege that ended in the Srebrenica massacre of 8,000 Muslims in Bosnia's 1992-95 war and left with his family for the United States in 1998. REUTERS

Japanese study: 5-year-old chimp beats college kids in computer game

NEW YORK—JAPANESE RESEARCHERS pitted young chimps against human adults in two tests of short-term memory, and overall, the chimps won.

That challenges the belief of many people, including many scientists, that "humans are superior to chimpanzees in all cognitive functions," said researcher Tetsuro Matsuzawa of Kyoto University.

"No one can imagine that chimpanzees—young chimpanzees at the age of 5—have a better performance in a memory task than humans," he said in a statement.

Matsuzawa, a pioneer in studying the mental abilities of chimps, said even he was surprised. He and colleague Sana Inoue report the results in Tuesday's issue of the journal Current Biology.

One memory test included three 5-year-old chimps who'd been taught the order of Arabic numerals one through nine, and a dozen human volunteers.

They saw nine numbers displayed on a computer screen. When they touched the first number, the other eight turned into white squares. The test was to touch all these squares in the order of the numbers that used to be there.

Results showed that the chimps, while no more accurate than the people, could do this faster.

One chimp, Ayumu, did the best. Researchers included him and nine college students in a second test.

This time, five numbers flashed on the screen only briefly before they were replaced by white squares. The challenge, again, was to touch these squares in the proper sequence.

When the numbers were displayed for about seven-tenths of a second, Ayumu and the college students were both able to do this correctly about 80 percent of the time.

But when the numbers were displayed for just four-tenths or two-tenths of a second, the chimp was the champ. The briefer of those times is too short to allow a look around the screen, and in those tests Ayumu still scored about 80 percent, while humans plunged to 40 percent.

That indicates Ayumu was better at taking in the whole pattern of numbers at a glance, the researchers wrote.

"It's amazing what this chimpanzee is able to do," said Elizabeth Lonsdorf, director of the Lester E. Fisher Center for the Study and Conservation of Apes at the Lincoln Park Zoo in Chicago. The center studies the mental abilities of apes, but Lonsdorf didn't participate in the new study.

She admired Ayumu's performance when the numbers flashed only briefly on the screen.

"I just watched the video of that and I can tell you right now, there's no way I can do it," she said. "It's unbelievable. I can't even get the first two (squares)."

What's going on here? Even with six months of training, three students failed to catch up to the three young chimps, Matsuzawa said in an e-mail.

He thinks two factors gave his chimps the edge. For one thing, he believes human ancestors gave up much of this skill over evolutionary time to make room in the brain for gaining language abilities.

The other factor is the youth of Ayuma and his peers. The memory for images that's needed for the tests resembles a skill found in children, but which dissipates with age. In fact, the young chimps performed better than older chimps in the new study. (Ayuma's mom did even worse than the college students).

So the next logical step, Lonsdorf said, is to fix up Ayumu with some real competition on these tests: little kids. *AP*

Advocate for democracy wins HK election

CHAN (right) and her husband Archie (left) hug in Hong Kong on Dec. 3. AFP

HONG KONG—A FORMER TOP CIVIL SERvant dubbed "Hong Kong's conscience" has won a highly symbolic by-election for a seat in the city's legislature in a vote widely seen as a referendum on democracy in the former British colony.

The victory by Anson Chan, 67, former deputy to last British governor Chris Patten, was good news for the city's prodemocracy political camp, which suffered a beating in district council polls last month at the hands of the biggest pro-Beijing party.

Accepting victory on Monday, a grinning Chan said the results from Sunday's election proved that Hong Kong people wanted universal suffrage by 2012, the date for the next election for the city's leader.

"My experience on the campaign trail has convinced me even more that genuine democracy is the only way of ultimately safeguarding our freedoms and values and of building a compassionate, fair and more just society," she said.

Britain handed Hong Kong back to Communist-ruled China in 1997, since when the territory has enjoyed sweeping autonomy in many areas, but not in political reform.

The city's constitution makes universal suffrage the ultimate aim of political reform, but is vague on the timing and direction. The British themselves never pushed the idea until the dying days of colonial rule under Patten.

Chan's margin over her main rival, Regina Ip, was higher than expected after opinion polls showed the gap narrowing in recent days.

"I think it shows that a lot of middle class people in Hong Kong still care about democracy, even though the economy is getting better, the stock market is rising, and the economy is more dependent on China," said Ma Ngok, associate professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

"This is something that Beijing needs to think about."

Since 1997, however, the democratic camp's traditional overall support rate of about 60 percent has slipped and some experts warn that it must rethink its single-issue approach to elections. Chan won about 54 percent of the vote.

"This is the time for the pan-democrats to have a thorough review," said James Sung of City University. "But I'm suspicious ... since this was a clear victory for Anson I'm afraid that the pan-democratic group will not look thoroughly at the changing political climate."

Despite losing, Ip's strong showing demonstrated once again, after the district council elections, that the pro-Beijing camp's election machine that backed her is formidable. *Reuters*

Poll: Obama, Huckabee lead 2008 race in Iowa

DES MOINES, IOWA—DEMOcrat Barack Obama and Republican Mike Huckabee surged into narrow leads in Iowa in a poll released on Sunday, barely a month before the state holds the first contest in a shifting 2008 presidential race.

The poll by the Des Moines Register, the state's largest newspaper, showed Obama with a three-point edge over national front-runner Hillary Clinton in Iowa, 28 percent to 25 percent, and former North Carolina Sen. John Edwards third at 23 percent.

Among Republicans, Huckabee moved past previous leader Mitt Romney to take a five-point edge, 29 percent to 24 percent.

Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who leads national polls, trails in third place at 13 percent.

The new poll follows other recent surveys showing Obama, an Illinois senator, and Huckabee, the former governor of Arkansas, picking up steam in Iowa and nationally one month before Iowa's Jan. 3 contest kicks off the state-by-state battle to choose candidates for the November 2008 election. *Reuters*

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
JP BIOFUELS CORPORATION 71-B Sct. Borromeo, South Triangle, Quezon City	Masaharu Kurahachi Japanese	President and Chairman of the Board
LUCKY DHILLON ENTERPRISES INC. B2 L1 Mercury St., Mapayapa Vill., Pulang Lupa I, Las Piñas City	Harvinder Kumar Indian	Assistant Marketing Manager
LUCKY DHILLON ENTERPRISES INC. B2 L1 Mercury St., Mapayapa Vill., Pulang Lupa I, Las Pinas City	Inderjit Kaur Malhi Indian	Assistant General Manager
SOGY NAWANSHAR TRADING CORP. 1503 Galvani St., Makati City	Sarabjit Singh Dhillon Indian	Sales Consultant
JGC CORPORATION MANILA ROHQ 7/F JGC Phils. Bldg., 2109 Prime St., Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Masanori Miyama Japanese	Instrument Supervisor
CEBU ERNBRI IMPORT, INC. Unit 101 Joncor 2 Bldg., 1362 A.Mabini St.,Ermita, Manila	Brian Lance Giles American	Managing Director
YEOHAENG-SKETCH TOURS & TRAVEL INC. Rm. 402 Acre Bldg., 137 Malakas St., Diliman, Quezon City	Yanliang Zeng Chinese	Travel Consultant
YEOHAENG-SKETCH TOURS & TRAVEL INC. Rm. 402 Acre Bldg., 137 Malakas St., Diliman, Quezon City	Yanzhu Zeng Chinese	Travel Consultant
PURELINE GAZ CORP. 626 Congressional Ave. cor. Clarion Lily St., Bahay Toro, Quezon City	Yanghee Kim Korean	Supervisor
ATHENA PACIFIC CORPORATION Unit 1707 Cityland Herrera Tower, V.A. Rufino cor. Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Sung Keun Cho Korean	Chairman
ATHENA PACIFIC CORPORATION Unit 1707 Cityland Herrera Tower, V.A. Rufino cor. Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Dong Hee Lee Korean	Chief Operating Officer/ General Manager
RJ TRAVEL AGENCY, INC. 23 Jasmine St.,Mapayapa Vill. II., Don Antonio Hts., Quezon City	Meiying Zhou Chinese	Travel Consultant
RJ TRAVEL AGENCY, INC. 23 Jasmine St., Mapayapa Vill. II., Don Antonio Hts., Quezon City	Guozhong Cai Chinese	Travel Consultant
SYKES ASIA INC. 26/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Avenue, Makati City	Ji Yoon Kim Korean	Korean Client Support
CHINA CHAMPION GROUP PHILS. INT'L., INC. 501-A Dr. Jos Perez Ave., Las Piñas City	Shikun Wang Chinese	Merchandizing Supervisor II
SYKES ASIA INC. 26/F Robinsons Summit Center, 6783 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Aeja Choi Korean	Korean Client Support
PLASTOP ASIA INC. 1038 Cristobal St., Ermita, Manila	Cheree Anne Weir New Zealand	Administration Manager

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI—December 4, 2007)

Putin wins landslide; foes decry poll

MOSCOW—PRESIDENT VLADIMIR PUTIN'S party won a landslide victory in a parliamentary election, official results showed on Monday, giving him a mandate to shape Russia's political landscape after his second term ends next year.

But opposition parties and independent election monitors cried foul. They said biased media coverage during the campaign, overt government support for Putin's United Russia party and numerous irregularities during voting had skewed the outcome.

The Central Electoral Commission said that with almost all votes counted, United Russia had won 64.1 percent of votes, nearly six times as many as the nearest challenger, the Communist party. Two smaller pro-Kremlin groupings took another 16 percent of the vote and pro-Western parties won no seats.

The Kremlin hailed the vote as a strong personal endorsement for Putin, who campaigned vigorously for United Russia.

Financial market analysts said the result would bolster stability and encourage investment.

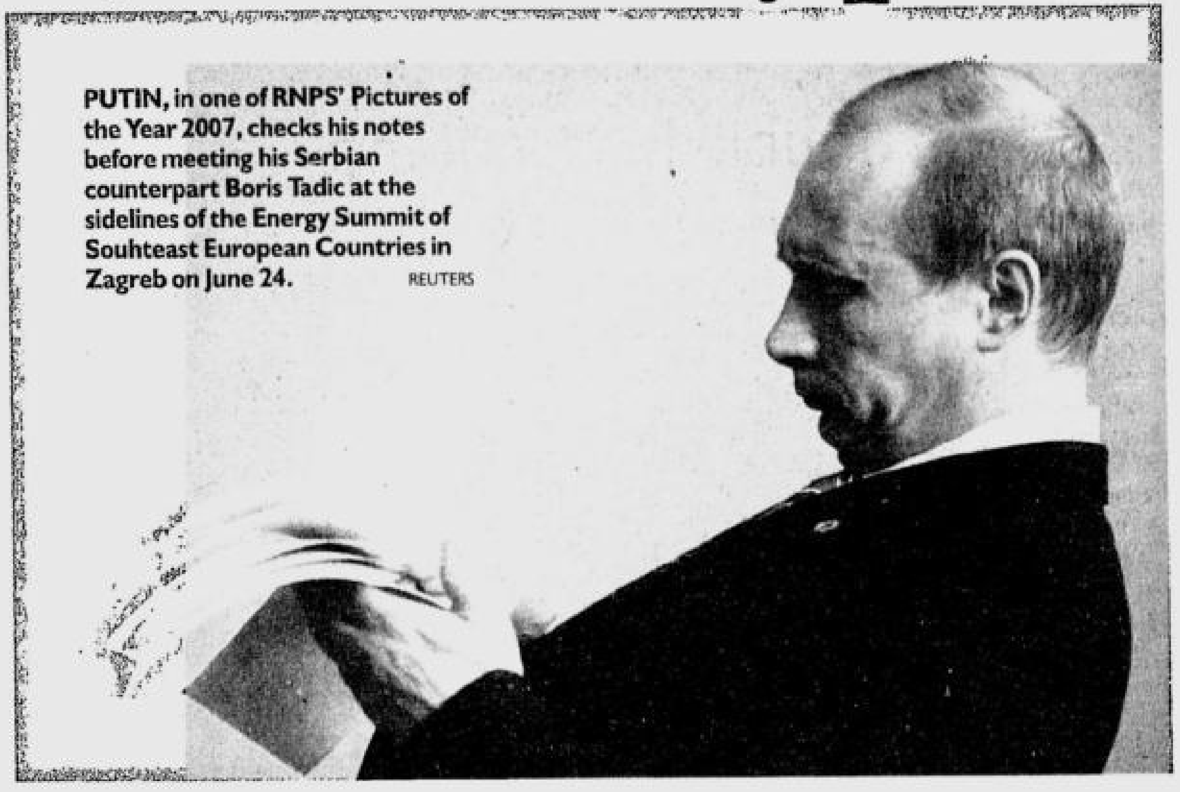
"Russian voters spoke in favor of United Russia, thus supporting President Putin's course, and spoke in favor of it being continued after the current president's second term ends," said Dmitry Peskov, a Kremlin spokesperson.

What Putin will do after his second term ends next May remains unclear. Some observers say he could seek a third term as president, although he has said he will not change the constitution to pave the way for this.

Projections by the Electoral Commission showed pro-Kremlin parties would win about 393 of the 450 seats in the next State Duma, the lower house of parliament. That would be more than enough to allow them to change the constitution if they wished.

Opinion polls show Putin, a 55-year-old former KGB agent, is extremely popular after eight years of oil-fueled economic growth. Voters credit him with restoring stability and national pride and like his tough nationalism and criticism of the West.

The Communists, who won 11.6 percent of votes, said they would challenge the result in the courts. In a first reaction from abroad, the United States urged Russia to investigate the numerous reports of vote-rigging. *Reuters*



PUTIN, in one of RNPS' Pictures of the Year 2007, checks his notes before meeting his Serbian counterpart Boris Tadic at the sidelines of the Energy Summit of Souhteast European Countries in Zagreb on June 24. REUTERS

Venezuela's Chavez loses 'president-for-life' vote

CARACAS—PRESIDENT HUGO Chavez crashed to an unprecedented vote defeat on Monday as Venezuelans rejected his bid to run for reelection indefinitely and accelerate his socialist revolution in the Opec nation.

In a fiercely contested referendum on Sunday, voters said "No" to a raft of reforms that would have scrapped term limits on Chavez's rule, boosted his powers to expropriate private property and allowed him to censor the media in emergencies.

The "No" camp won with about 51 percent of the vote, beating the anti-US president who scored around 49-percent support, election officials said early on Monday.

CHAVEZ REUTERS

Celebrations immediately erupted throughout Caracas with caravans of opposition activists cheering, honking horns and waving flags out of car windows. Many said Venezuela had narrowly escaped the imposition of authoritarian rule.

"The reform would have made some frightening changes in our country," said an ecstatic Astrid Badell, 18, pulling a plastic green whistle from her mouth to talk. "It would have practically been a copy of the Cuban constitution, and that would have been a big step backward."

While Chavez remains powerful and popular, it was his first ballot-box loss since he first swept into office nine years ago after failing to seize power in a 1992 military coup.

The self-styled revolutionary and close ally of Cuba conceded defeat but said he would "continue in the battle to build socialism."

Chavez also said the reform proposals remained "alive," suggesting he might try to push them through later on.

"This is not a defeat. This is another 'for now,'" Chavez said, repeating a famous quote when as a red-bereted paratrooper he acknowledged his coup attempt had failed.

He did not appear despondent at his presidential palace, where he told supporters not to be sad and wished all Venezuelans a "merry Christmas."

"I have listened to the voice of the people and I will always be listening to it," he said.

Students, rights and business groups, opposition parties, the Roman Catholic Church, former political allies and even his usually loyal ex-wife all lined up against Chavez ahead of the referendum vote.

They accused him of pushing the constitutional reforms to set up a dictatorship.

"Venezuela said 'No' to socialism, Venezuela said 'Yes' to democracy," said Leopoldo Lopez, the popular mayor of a Caracas district.

The United States says Chavez is a dangerous influence in Latin America. *Reuters*

Heavy snow, ice hit US, Canada; at least 4 dead

CHICAGO—THE FIRST MASSIVE winter storm of the season made its way toward the northeastern United States and Canada after lashing the Midwest, leaving at least four dead in car accidents and disrupting air travel, officials and media reported Sunday.

Heavy snow and freezing rain forced the cancellation of numerous flights in Wisconsin, Iowa and Illinois and some campaign events in Iowa, where presidential candidates will face their first test in a month for the 2008 White House race.

At Des Moines airport in Iowa, a United Airlines regional jet bound for Chicago slid off an icy taxiway on Saturday morning, closing the airport for more than six hours, airport and airline officials said. No one was seriously injured.

In Wisconsin a 37-year-old man died when a jeep hit a truck near DeForest as other cars ahead were slowing down for another truck that had tipped over on a highway, the Wisconsin State Journal reported on Sunday.

Two people died in separate crashes in the same Juneau County area on Interstate 90-94, the paper said.

In Indiana, a member of the Purdue University ice hockey club team was killed and seven teammates were injured when their van crashed Saturday in freezing rain, the Indianapolis Star reported.

The crash occurred 27 km south of West Lafayette, home to the university, when one of the team's vans swerved out of control on a two-lane highway and rolled over.

Purdue said 20 hockey players, two coaches and a manager were headed to Danville, Illinois for a late-afternoon game.

In Madison, Wisconsin, city officials declared a snow emergency through at least 7 a.m. on Monday.

Snow flurries on Saturday were followed by freezing rain later in the day in Midwestern states and the National Weather Service said cold air moving into the region could produce sleet and more freezing rain in parts of Iowa and Illinois. Light snow was forecast for parts of Wisconsin.

As the storm moved toward the northeast, the National Weather Service predicted heavy snow would hit the state of New York and across New England. Freezing rain and sleet was expected across much of New York, Pennsylvania, and northwest New Jersey.

The Federal Aviation Authority reported Sunday afternoon delays averaging one hour to more than two hours at major east coast airports from Philadelphia to New York.

New York City deployed all of its salt trucks to try and keep roadways from getting slick as the first snowfall of the season was expected to turn icy and possibly treacherous. *AFP*

Insurgents, corruption threaten vital Afghan road

SALAR, AFGHANISTAN—THE Afghan police truck smoldered in the village bazaar, flames rising from its cargo bed. The village was silent. Its residents were in hiding ahead of an American patrol.

The remains of a second truck, a tanker, sat on its wheel rims 100 yards to the north. To the south, another patrol was removing two freshly burned tankers from the highway.

The Americans examined the police truck. Holes marked where bullets had passed through. The passenger door was gone; struck by a rocket-propelled grenade.

This vehicle graveyard here on Highway 1, roughly 50 miles south of Kabul, the Afghan capital, symbolizes both the ambitions and frustrations in Afghanistan six years after the Taliban were chased from power.

Highway 1 is the country's main road, the route between Kabul and Kandahar, the country's second largest city. It follows an ancient trade route that could connect Central Asia and Afghanistan with ports in Pakistan.

The highway has been rebuilt with $250 million from the United States and other nations, but Highway 1 remains bedeviled by danger, extortion and treachery. Police corruption and insurgent attacks sow fear and make traveling the road a lottery.

Training security forces to police the road honestly is one of the long-term goals of the American and Nato forces. In the short term, the goal is to keep traffic flowing with a minimum of graft and attacks.

"Right now, freedom of movement is our main task on Highway 1," said Lt. Col. Timothy J. McAteer of the 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry, a unit of the 82nd Airborne Division.

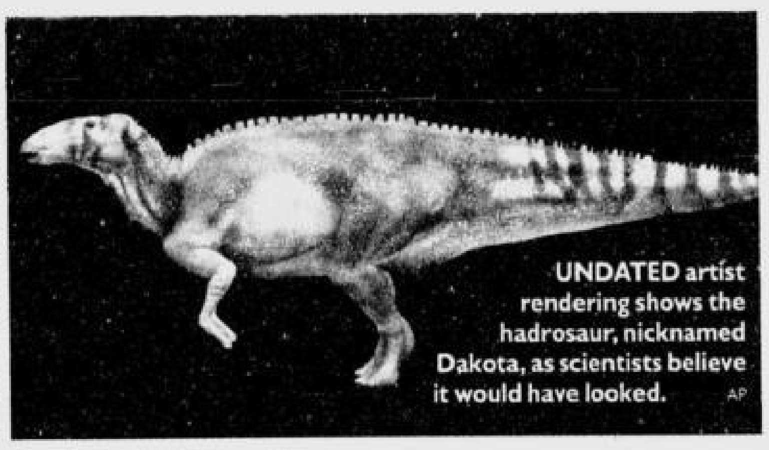
The road is different in many ways from its recent past. But in some ways it is the same. In 2001, after more than two decades of war, several sections of Highway 1 remain plagued by violence. Some attacks are Taliban operations, several officers said. Others are the sort of crimes that have afflicted Afghan trails for centuries.

"You go back in history, and people made money here by hitting caravans," McAteer said. *NYT*

Mummified dinosaur had scales, probably could outrun T. rex

WASHINGTON—ONE OF THE most complete dinosaur mummies ever found is revealing secrets locked away for millions of years, bringing researchers as close as they will ever get to touching a live dinosaur.

The fossilized duckbilled hadrosaur is so well-preserved that scientists have been able to calculate its muscle mass and learn that it was more muscular than thought, probably giving it the ability to outrun predators such as a tyrannosaurus rex.



UNDATED artist rendering shows the hadrosaur, nicknamed Dakota, as scientists believe it would have looked. AP

While they call it a mummy, the dinosaur is not really preserved like King Tut was. The dinosaur body has been fossilized into stone. Unlike the collections of bones found in museums, this hadrosaur came complete with skin, ligaments, tendons and possibly some internal organs, according to researchers.

The study is not yet complete, but scientists have concluded that hadrosaurs were bigger—3.18 metric tons and up to 12.19 meters long—and stronger than had been known, were quick and flexible and had skin with scales that may have been striped.

"Oh, the skin is wonderful," paleontologist Phillip Manning of Manchester University in England rhapsodized, admitting to a "glazed look in my eye."

"It's unbelievable when you look at it for the first time," he said in a telephone interview. "There is depth and structure to the skin. The level of detail expressed in the skin is just breathtaking."

Manning said there is a pattern of banding to the larger and smaller scales on the skin. Because it has been fossilized researchers do not know the skin color. Looking at it in monochrome shows a striped pattern.

He notes that in modern reptiles, such a pattern is often associated with color change.

The fossil was found in 1999 in the US. state of North Dakota and now is nicknamed "Dakota." It is being analyzed in the world's largest CT scanner, operated by the Boeing Co. *AP*

Naples 'miracle chair' draws childless couples

NAPLES—AN ORDINARY OLD armchair under a worn blanket in a three-room flat in Naples draws thousands of hopeful pilgrims. Pasted all over the walls around it are birth announcements: pink for girls, blue for boys.

Childless women from all over the world flock to the "miracle" chair—close to Speranzella street whose name suggests hope—in the picturesque Spanish Quarter of Naples.

There they ask Saint Mary Frances of the Five Wounds of Jesus for a miracle.

With her "miracles" reported on Weblogs, the saint's shrine has become a main stop on the religious tourism circuit in Naples, a city which in Italy is almost as well known for veneration of saints as for the Camorra crime syndicate.

"The saint is waiting for you," Sister Elisa, an energetic 65-year-old nun from the order that has guarded the shrine for two centuries, tells hundreds of men and women of all ages gathered for morning prayer at the nearby church.

After the Mass, worshippers are led up a steep staircase and along a narrow corridor into the flat where the saint, born Anna Maria Rosa Nicoletta Gallo, spent half her life in chastity and mystical suffering until her death in 1791 at the age of 76.

Hair shirts and a whip hanging from the walls remind pilgrims of the grim "voluntary penance" the saint adopted after joining the strict order of Saint Peter of Alcantara.

As the religious name she took suggests, she was believed to carry the "stigmata" or wounds of Jesus. She was the first woman saint born in Naples, but there is no hint in her life story as to why her help is sought by childless women in particular.

"Are you married?" Sister Maria Giuliana whispers to a young woman sitting on the armchair, before touching the visitor's breast and belly with a "monstrance" or reliquiary containing a vertebra and a lock of hair from the saint.

As the nun prays, the group waits in silence.

"I am here to pray for everybody's sake, not only for myself," one young woman, who declined to give her name, whispered to Reuters in the hushed room.

Later, Sister Elisa shows a picture of a 5-month-old baby and a letter from his parents.

"We came to Naples to visit Saint Mary Frances on January 21, 2006," reads the letter signed by Dejan and Jasmina Bogdanovic, a Serbian couple living in Germany.

Evidence of Saint Mary Frances' miracles is anecdotal, but the groundswell of devotion for the "saint of the family"—who escaped a forced marriage and an oppressive father—has spread by word of mouth and, more recently, through blogs like caffenews.wordpress.com.

Roman Catholic Italy is rich in relics, which may be all or part of a saint's body or a belonging such as clothing. The most famous example in Naples is a glass phial believed to contain the dried blood of Saint Gennaro, the patron saint of Naples who was beheaded by pagan Romans in 305 A.D.

Each year pilgrims crowd the cathedral to witness the "miracle" of Saint Gennaro's blood, whose liquefaction is seen as a good omen for the city. On his feast day, a statue of Saint Mary Frances is carried behind his along the streets of Naples.

But nobody appears to know exactly how many relics have been preserved over the centuries in the churches of Naples.

"It is not even possible to say how many churches there are in Naples," Don Luigi Merluzzo, head of public relations at the Archdiocese of Naples, said. *Reuters*

WHAT'S INSIDE
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Celts dump
James-less Cavs; Spurs rip Blazers
/A24

RP settles for 3rd silver in skeet

Golden double for Thailand as victory eludes Pinoy shooters

By Musong R. Castillo

BANGKOK—THERE REALLY IS NO PLACE LIKE HOME—FOR THE TRIumphant Thais and dethroned Filipino skeet champion Brian Rosario.

24th SEA GAMES
6 - 15 DECEMBER 2007
NAKHON RATCHASIMA
THAILAND

Thailand turned in its version of a golden double kill in the skeet competitions of the 24th Southeast Asian Games on Monday, using its astute familiarity of the range even as Rosario's bid ended up in shambles.

'But the Filipinos managed to hold it together in the final 50 targets of classification to bag the team silver, which team member Pablito Bernardo said "was not bad considering the conditions we were in."

Team Philippines, who won the gold in 2005 in Manila, finished with a 333 total after 125 shots, with Rosario shooting 114, Bernardo 111 and Gabriel Tong 110.

The Filipinos' tally was nine shots off the winning mark registered by the Thais, who broke away from a tie at 207 points at the start of the day with a performance to remember.

The Thais, with the eagle-eyed Jiranunt Hathaichukiat scoring a 24 and a 23, and Krisada Varadharmapinich shooting 22 and 22 in the last two stages, broke away from the Filipinos to win the hosts' 13th gold in the six-day-old biennial Games.

Hathaichukiat went on to bag the individual gold with a 138 tally, with Varadhardmapinich checking in second two shots behind.

Phasee Pitipoom, the third member of the Thai team, finished with 23 and 21 points for 111, good enough for a shoot-off for the finals where he and two other foreigners ousted Bernardo to make the final six-man squad.

Singapore bagged the team bronze with a 328 total, with David Chan and Huan Lin Eugene Chien shooting 111 points each and Lee Yee adding 196.

Rosario, after a perfect 25 to open the RP campaign at the Thailand Target and Clay Ranges here on Sunday, started the day with 69 points, tied for third with his teammates. He had a 24 in the fourth round only to flounder with a 20 in the last to go into the finals in third spot.

But he lost his touch in the medal round, downing only 18 birds as the worst performer in the crucial stage.

"*Nawalan na ako ng gana* (I lost my desire to win)," Rosario, the 25-year-old business studies graduate who won the gold in Manila two years ago, was overheard telling teammates after that dismal effort in the finals.

Rosario, the only Filipino to make the finals, begged off from granting interviews during practice Saturday and after the first 75 shots.

But it was clear that the Thais were in a class by themselves on the final day.

The Philippines scooped up three silvers in shooting, the other two coming from the trap team of Jethro Dionisio, Carlos Carag and the pocket-sized Eric Ang and rookie Jacqueline de Guzman, who was a surprise runner-up in women's skeet on Sunday.

"We (team) had a strong feeling that they (Thais) prepared hard for us," Bernardo, a 56-year-old owner of a chain of computer stores said. "They were very careful in choosing the range. They picked the one where they had the most advantage in.

"That's the beauty of being the host country. We did it to them (in Manila) and they did it to us here."

The range inside the mammoth Rajumangala National Stadium has a background filled with trees which camouflaged the "birds."

TOP Filipino skeet shooter Bryan Rosario loses his touch in the medal round. *(Medal tally on A23)* EGAY MONTANA, CONTRIBUTOR

THE RP women's team must now hope for a close result against Vietnam. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

Lowly Laos holds off Filipino lady booters

By Musong R. Castillo

NAKHON, RATCHASIMA—THE PHILIPpine women's team blew a 2-1 lead with just over 20 minutes left Monday and was held to a 2-2 tie by lowly Laos at the start of women's football in the 24th Southeast Asian Games at the Tumbon Muenapug Stadium here.

Laos, a relative newcomer to the Games, knocked in a goal in the 73rd minute courtesy of striker Phaivanh Souphavahn that forged the tie, giving both the Laotians and the favored Filipinos just a point each.

The Filipinos, who missed making the semifinals in Bacolod two years ago by just a goal, rallied from a 0-1 first-half deficit, scoring twice in a five-minute span through Patrice Impelido and Edna Agravante starting in the 63rd minute.

And it looked like it would be a stroll from there for RP until that game-tying goal, which now put the country in a must-win situation over Vietnam, the defending champion which massacred the nationals, 1-9, in the AFC earlier this year.

Ting Sengmany shoved Laos ahead in the 17th minute with a lucky stab that eluded Filipino keeper Nadia Galang.

There are only two groups made up of three teams each. Only the top two will advance to the Final Four, and the Philippines must, at all cost, try to avoid losing big to the Vietnamese to stay alive.

In Group B action, Thailand tore Malaysia to shred, 6-0 on Sunday, for the early lead.

Laos will clash with the Vietnamese Saturday and in the event of a tie, the goal difference (goals for minus goals against) will be used to break it.

The Philippines-Vietnam match is scheduled at 3:15 tomorrow.

The RP women's team was sent here in lieu of the men because of better medal prospects, but the tie Monday certainly hurt that chance.

Barbosa stuns Iranian GM, joins So, Laylo on top of leader board

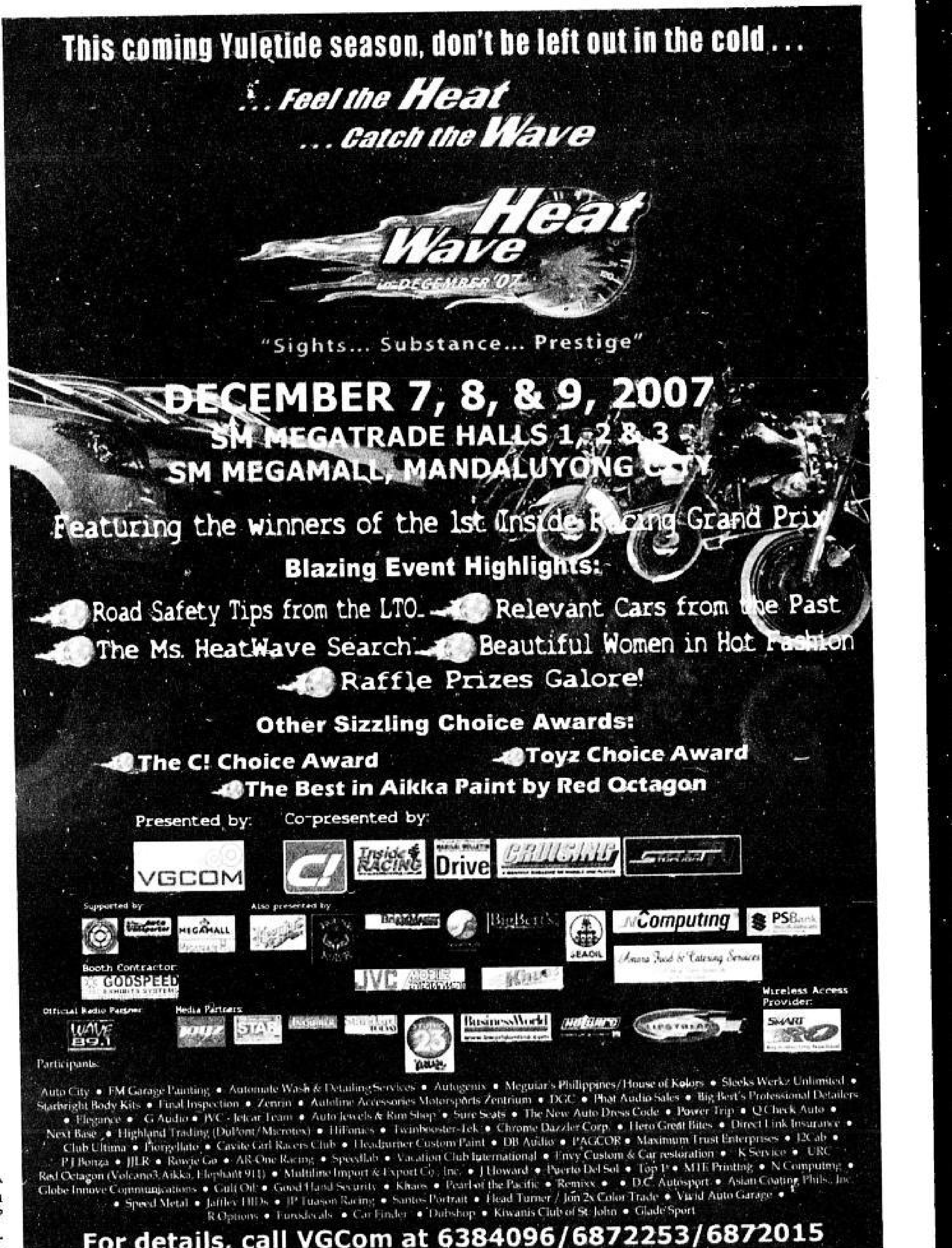
Standings after three rounds:

3.0 points—W. So (RP), D. Laylo (RP), O. Barbosa (RP), H. Ni (China); 2.5—R. Antonio (RP), R. Dableo (RP), J. Sadorra (RP), R. Bitoon (RP), D.T. Hai (Vietnam), N A. Dung (Vietnam), Q. Huang (China), Tirto (Indonesia); 2.0—M. Paragua (RP), J. Gonzales (RP), C. Garma (RP), R. Nolte (RP), J. Gomez (RP), H, Nouri (RP), D. Elorta (RP), J. Salubre (RP), L. Chao (China), Z. Zhong (Singapore), E. Ghaem (Iran), R. Li (China), X. Zhang (China), W. Zhou (China), Y. Wang (China)

By Roy Luarca

NATIONAL MASTER OLIVER BARBOSA stunned Iranian Grandmaster Ehsan Ghaem Maghami Sunday night to cap the Filipinos' strong third round showing in the third Pros-

BARBOSA/ A23



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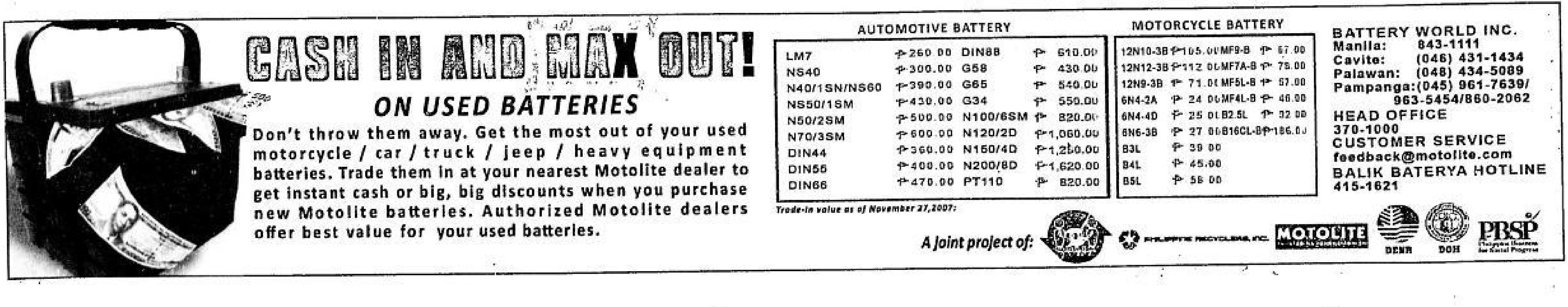

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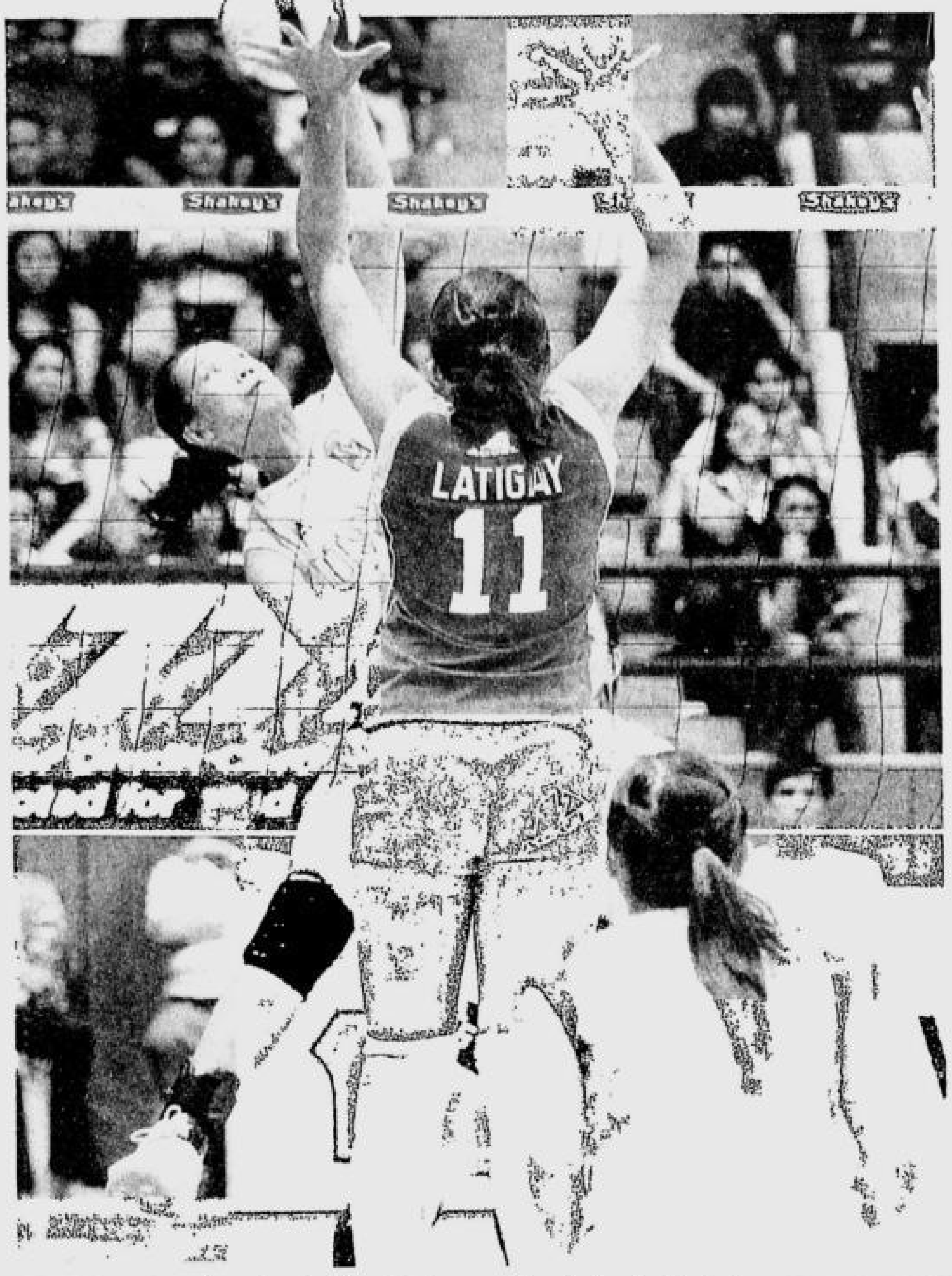


UST'S Venus Bernal goes for the kill against Laurene Anne Latigay in Sunday's game. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Shakey's V-League title decider today

By Romina S. Austria

UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS COACH AUGUSTO SANTAMARIA SAID winning comes easy for his Tigresses when they receive the ball well and play inspired defense.

GAME TODAY (*The Arena, San Juan*)
5 p.m.—Santo Tomas vs San Sebastian

"When we are able to execute those things, it's hard to beat us," said Santamaria.

Whether the Tigresses can play their usual relaxed game under the grinding pressure of a winner-take-all match against the San Sebastian Lady Stags will be known today.

This time, UST and San Sebastian clash at 5 p.m. at The Arena to decide the 2007 Shakey's V-League women's volleyball second conference championship.

Momentum had clearly shifted in UST's favor following its 25-16, 25-15, 25-21 win over San Sebastian Sunday to force a decider in the best-of-three title series.

San Sebastian won the series opener, 25-16, 25-19, 17-25, 23-25, 15-13, Friday to move on the verge of its first V-League crown after finishing second behind La Salle last year and to UST in the first conference.

But the Lady Stags were completely dominated last Sunday. Thai import Jaroensri Bualee, averaging 22 points per game, made only 17, a testament to the Tigresses defense.

Still, Santamaria said "anything can happen. I don't believe in momentum."

Guest player Suzanne Roces topscored with 16 points and along with Mary Jean Balse, had four blocks each and five service points between them during Game Two.

San Sebastian coach Roger Gorayeb said they should match UST's defense and good reception.

"We have to play tougher net defense," said Gorayeb.

UST was also left out of the league individual awards which used statistics as basis. Santamaria said his players were not at all affected.

"We play as a team so there's really no single dominant player," said Santamaria. "We play well even without awards."

In the battle for third place, also Sunday, Ateneo posted its highest finish ever by sweeping Adamson University, 25-23, 25-22, 25-23, in their best-of-three clash.

The Lady Eagles, who also won Game One, 14-25, 25-21, 25-19, 25-19, placed fourth in the 2005 first conference.

Most Valuable Player and guest Thai player Lithawat Kesinee was her usual dominant self, firing a game-high 29 points for Ateneo. The two-time Southeast Asian Games campaigner also received the Best Scorer and Best Blocker awards.

Despite the loss, the Lady Falcons improved on their sixth-place performance in the first conference.

Neriza Bautista topscored for Adamson with 19 points, all from attacks, while Angela Benting, Rissa Laguilles, Michelle Segodine, Jacqueline So and Janet Serafica combined for 28 points.

The other individual awardees were Bualee (Best Attacker), La Salle's Jacqueline Alarca (Best Server), Adamson's Lizlee Ann Gata (Best Digger) and San Sebastian's Charisse Ancheta (Best Setter) and Margarita Pepito (Best Receiver).

Bualee was named Best Attacker while teammates Mary Jane Pepito and Charisse Ancheta took the Best Receiver and Setter plums, respectively.

BOWLING GAMBLE?

PBC's Hontiveros calls Tee, Gatchalian 'uncoachable'

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THIS IS A GAMBLE WE HAVE TO TAKE.

That, in a nutshell, was how Philippine Bowling Congress president Steve Hontiveros yesterday described their stunning, if controversial, last-minute decision to replace two Southeast Asian Games defending champions with reserve bowlers.

Hontiveros said the PBC board convened yesterday to affirm the decision by national coaches Caloy De Leon, Jean Canaleta and Madoka Amano to drop defending men's Masters champion Markwin Tee and Joonee Gatchalian, who ruled the men's doubles in 2005 with CJ Suarez, for being "uncoachable."

Their slots were taken up by reserves Benshir Layoso and Tyrone Ongpauco.

"What can we do? *Kaysa naman mabokya na naman tayo kagaya nung* Asian Games. (Lest we want to bomb out like we did in the Asian Games)," said Hontiveros. "They (Tee and Gatchalian) are good but we must have the correct attitude also.

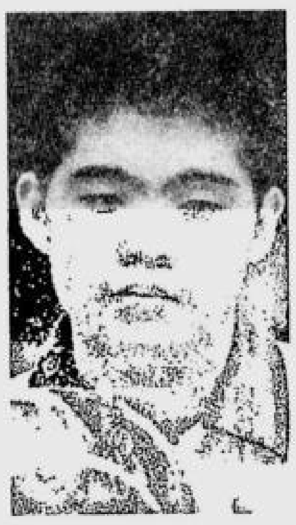
"We can't compete like this. We have to take the risk. That's what I told the coaches."

Hontiveros said the coaches had signed a memorandum that they would resign if the Philippines failed to get at least a gold and a silver in the Thailand SEAG. The country bagged four gold and six silver medals in the 2005 SEAG.

The team is leaving on Dec. 6 with the new recruits in tow and reigning World Masters champion Biboy Rivera, who was called in from sick bay.

"I was given the go-signal by the doctors," said Rivera, who nevertheless confided that he is still in the process of "recovering from my (knee) injury."

Bowling Hall of Famer Bong Coo, the PBC secretary general, said the last-minute replacement of Tee and Gatchalian was the decision of the coaches. She also vouched for the preparedness of Ongpauco and Layoso.



OUT: Markwin Tee

HONTIVEROS: Gamble

"They have been training with the team all along," she said. "They are not entirely new to the team."

"We are not biased against anybody," said Hontiveros. "In fact, I made Markwin the flag bearer during the Asian indoors. This is not just a game. It's the pride of the country that's at stake here."

Tee topped the national team scoring session, while Gatchalian finished fifth during the trials last August. Tee also won the silver in the singles, while Gatchalian was part of the silver-winning team of five in 2005.

SPORTSWATCH

Pascua dad writes 30

FORMER MOVIE WRITER-DIRECTOR ANtonio B. Pascua passed away Sunday after a lingering illness. He was 73. He is survived by son, sportswriter Ibarra Pascua and daughter Angela Revilla and children-in-law Shirley and Gener and grandchildren Illuminada, Sabrina, Lucas and Elizah Pascua and Nerwendell and Arnel Revilla. His body lies in state at La Bien Memorial Chapel, Maliksi, Bacoor, Cavite. Cremation is set on Wednesday.

UGBA 9-stag tilt resumes

THE SEMIFINAL ROUND OF THE UGBA Heritage Cup National 9-Stag Derby resumes at 2 p.m. today at the San Juan Coliseum.

The maiden offering of the newly formed United Gamecock Breeders Associations drew 632 entries. UGBA president Rene Diaz said the winners will receive a guaranteed prize of P10 million.

Two participants lead the field with six wins each—Charlie Yu and Jimmy Canda, both of Salpukan Breeders Group of Davao.

Big prizes up in 'Salpukan'

WITH JUST A WEEK TO GO BEFORE THE big showdown, Makati Coliseum's "Pamaskong Salpukan" 6-cock derby has attracted more than 300 confirmed entries.

Slated Dec. 10, 12, 17, 19, 22, 26 and 29, the cockfest dangles P3 million cash, a Toyota Innova and a passenger jeep.

Hosts Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. said this annual event opens the cock season of Makati Coliseum for 2007-08.

The champion handler will win P150,000 and the top gaffer P50,000.

Roligon derby Round 2 on

SEVENTY MATCHES ARE ON TAP IN THE second round of the "2M Weder Weder Lang" 5-cock derby starting at 4 p.m. at Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

The crowd-drawing cock season opener fired off last Saturday with eight participants scoring two wins each—Sonny Manotoc (SM I), Cesar Pedraja (CP Fortuner), Pol Derpo (Mikaela), Louie Alba (Dragon RM), Muling Dorado (Bayo Lente), Buddy Robregado (Katrina), James Uy (Lista Na) and D. Barredo (RB Diamond Cut).

Hosts Rolly Ligon and the Super Ninja group have staked a guaranteed prize of P2 million. Entry fee is P8,800.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Tippletylertoo (3), Graceful (5), Life Is Delicious (1)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Red Storm (6), Kaligatan (9), Terry Toon (4), Caden Dance (1), Sakura Ijhay (3)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Sir Barbaro (6), Conquistadorsdream (5), Kang Kang (4), Priyanka (8), Mr. Godfather (2)
Race 4—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Speed Admiral (1), Carmelita (10), King's Treasure (2), Writtenindstars (8), Yapee Yoyoh (7), Air D'Truth (9)
Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Deep Pockets (7), She Boom (3), Queen of Gala (8), Astimegoesby (2), Premiere Act (5)
Race 6—(Super Six/Qrt/Tri)—Given (9), Tonic Water (8), King Aljhun (3), House of Riches (11), Isla Clipper (10), Amazing Pace (2)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Gallant Warrior (6), Grand Fiesta (1), Sweet Talk (2), Zaniga (4)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Gold Collar (2), Look Who's Playing (1), Sea of Galilee (9), Ride The Lightning (4), Seeing Red (12), Heart of the Wind (10)

Fernando reinstated, cleared for Fil-Am stint

By Jong Arcano

FERNANDO

BAGUIO—ANTHONY FERNANDO'S REINstatement as an amateur yesterday finally cleared the way for his stint in the Fil-Am wars here but Manila Southwoods is ready for the worst-case scenario of playing without him.

Fernando, the reigning Philippine amateur champion, joined Southwoods in practice here yesterday and Sunday.

But the decision of the National Golf Association of the Philippines to rescind its decision to strip Fernando of his amateur status—for appearing in what it perceived as an advertisement in a golf magazine—also gave him back his slot in the national team.

He might leave the city in a huff for next week's Thailand Southeast Asian Games.

"For us, it's country first," said Chucho Martinez of Southwoods, which will challenge Club Marinduque/Calatagan's bid for a fourth straight title in the Fil Championship division.

NGAP director Caloy Coscolluela told the INQUIRER yesterday that they made the decision to reinstate Tony after reviewing the explanations of both Fernando and PacSports, which placed the ad in INQUIRER GOLF

"We're actually fielding Tony in the SEA Games and it will be up to him if he will still play in the Fil-Am," Coscolluela said.

Meanwhile, Fil-Am co-chair Anthony de Leon said that the number of registered players has ballooned to a record 1,202.

As action fired off in the earlier flights, Watercraft Ventures and Guam Kool Swingers took the lead in Fil B and C flights.

Noly Carino toured the par 61 BCC course with a seven-over 68 for 29 points to pace the Guamanians. Lito Garcia had a 28, while Willy Valencia and Victor Ovales added 25 and 22, respectively, as the team pooled 104.

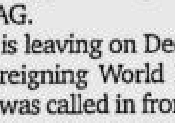
Team L.A. drew a 28 from Ernie Arambulo as the squad scrambled for 96 points and second spot, while Circa 16 Golf Club and Team Surigao I turned in 89 points to tie for third.

At Camp John Hay, Rural Bankers opened with 80 points to lead Am B while Mamala Bay totaled 74 to pace Am C.

What sparked RP mania in basketball

*You may forget but let me tell you this: someone in some future time will think of us—**Sappho***

CLEAN LIVING



Manolo R. Iñigo

SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, READER ISabelo Filomeno of Cagayan de Oro City wrote this corner requesting for a list of Filipino basketball Olympians from 1936 up to the time we last played in the Olympic Games.

In his letter Mr. Filomeno said, "I'm sure many of your readers would be interested to know them."

I agree. There is question that basketball is the Filipinos' national pastime.

In my view, what sparked the country's mania in basketball was the Philippine team's fifth-place in the Berlin Olympic Games in 1936, when the dash-and-dribble sport made its debut as an Olympic event. The game's inventor, Dr. James A. Naismith, opened the tournament which drew a motley field of 12 countries: The games were played outdoors.

The RP team, captained by Ambrosio Padilla, who later became a senator and president of the defunct Philippine Amateur Athletic Federation (forerunner of the Philippine Olympic Committee), won four of its five games, losing only to the United States, 56-23. The US won the gold medal—as expected—but the Philippines was ranked fifth while Mexico, which was beaten by the Filipinos, 32-30, copped the bronze, a faulty ruling which had been amended since then by the sport's ruling body.

However, that fifth-place finish was the best performance by any Philippine basketball team in the Olympics.

Coached by battle-tested Dionisio "Chito" Calvo, the members of the powerhouse RP team—aside from Padilla—were Jacinto Ciria Cruz, Charles Borck, Primitivo Martinez, Franco Marquicias, Jesus Marzan, Amador Obordo, Bibiano Quano, John Worrell and Fortunato Yambao. The alternates were Miguel Pardo and Antonio Carillo.

After beating Mexico, the Philippines defeated Estonia, 39-22, before losing to the US. The Philippines wrapped up its assignments by whipping Italy, 32-14, and Uruguay, 33-23.

The rest of our participation in the Olympic Games:

1948 LONDON—Lauro Mumar, Manolet Araneta Jr., Ramon Campos Jr., Andy dela Cruz, Eduardo Decena, Fely Fajardo, captain; and his brother Gabby Fajardo, Edgardo "Ding" Fulgencio, Antonio Martinez and Francisco Vestil. The coach was again Chito Calvo, with Tito Eduque and Luis Gavierres as alternates.

The Philippines finished 12th, with the US bagging the gold anew.

Results in London: RP d. Iraq, 102-30; RP d. Korea, 35-33; RP lost to Chile, 39-68; RP d. China, 51-32; RP lost to Belgium, 35-37; RP d. Argentina, 45-43; RP lost to Peru, 29-40; RP lost to Belgium, 34-38.

1952 HELSINKI—Carlos Loyzaga, Ramon Campos Jr., Antonio Genato, Rafael Hechanova, Eduardo Lim, Florentino Bautista, Antonio Martinez, captain; Jose Gochangco, Ponciano Saldaña, Meliton Santos, Antonio Tantay and Mariano Tolentino. Fely Fajardo was the team coach while no alternate was named.

The Philippines placed ninth, with the US winning its third title in a row.

Results in Helsinki: RP d. Israel, 57-47; RP d. Hungary, 48-35; RP lost to Argentina, 59-85; RP lost to Brazil, 52-71; RP d. Canada, 81-65. (*To be continued*)

THE NATIONAL men's basketball team, powered by GNC sports nutrition, is ready for action in Thailand.

Thai No. 2 wary of Mamiit; skeet, trap different animals

By Musong R. Castillo

BANGKOK—CECIL MAMIIT HAS A built-in advantage when he comes to the 24th Southeast Asian Games—fear.

Danai Udomchoke, the losing finalist in Manila two years ago, hopes that the luck of the draw will keep him out of the way of the stocky and comical Fil-American early for the best chance to win the singles gold medal.

In an article published in the broadsheet The Nation, Udomchoke, the Thai No. 2 behind the illustrious Paradorn Srichapan, is also hoping for a payback against the Filipino, and the best way to get that would be in the singles finals.

The entire Thailand Lawn Tennis Association is also hoping to dismantle the men's team made up of Mamiit and fellow Fil-American Eric Taino and to unseat the Filipinos in the mixed doubles event.

24th SOUTHEAST ASIAN GAMES

Medal tally	G	S	B
Thailand	14	16	6
Singapore	8	6	6
Vietnam	7	3	11
Malaysia	2	3	5
Myanmar	2	2	1
Philippines	0	3	1
Indonesia	0	0	2
Laos	0	0	0
Brunei	0	0	0
Cambodia	0	0	0
Timor Leste	0	0	0

* * *

Skeet and trap, two shotgun shooting events that are played outdoors, have two very distinct characteristics that are not readily distinguishable unless explained by experts.

Though both events shoot down "birds," the targets in trap move away from the shooters and are released toward random directions. Each trap shooter also has a maximum of two shots to down a target.

In skeet, targets are flown in directions that cross the shooter's line of sight. The twist: skeet shooters have just one shot per "bird" and their guns have to be down before the targets are released.

* * *

How impressive is the Thai women's skeet team and the government's program?

Thailand put a young lady, T. Imprasertsuk, as a guest player in the qualifying stage Sunday. She would have been in second place going into the medal round, behind another Thai and the Philippines Jacqueline de Guzman.

Imprasertsuk, who can't be more than 16 years old, was so good that she shot 23 and 24 points in her first 50 targets to finish with 66 in the qualifying. That would have been justs seven points behind topnotcher Sutiya Jiewchaloemmit and two ahead of De Guzman.

So proud were her parents that she got a very warm hug after her stint, and we can be sure that the Thailand shooting association will be embracing her more in the future.

Officials warn RP five: Expect 'hostile' calls

First wave of SEAG bets off today

By Jasmine W. Payo
and Ernesto A. Gonzales

SPORTS OFFICIALS LED BY PHILIPPINE Olympic Committee president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco yesterday cautioned the men and women's national basketball squads to expect unfavorable calls in the Southeast Asian Games basketball competition.

"Expect untoward officiating, but we should not lose our heads," said Cojuangco in yesterday's send-off rites in Libis, Quezon City. "Don't let the officiating bother you. There will be unusual calls just to disturb you, but just keep on playing."

The Harbour-RP team will leave for Nakhon Ratchasima in Thailand today, while the women's squad will depart tomorrow.

Also leaving with the first big wave of SEAG departures today are the national bets in swimming (11), billiards and snooker (16), boxing (24), gymnastics (5), lawn tennis (11), beach volleyball (12), weightlifting (17), futsal (16) and squash (3).

The lady cagers leave with a 139-man group to be headed by Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez. Joining them are the athletes from archery (17), baseball (17), athletics (51), wrestling (13), petanque (9) and judo (5).

Another big batch of 155 athletes and officials from badminton, cycling, bowling, dance sports, fencing, golf, muay, softball, triathlon and weightlifing will leave on Dec. 6.

The rest of the RP delegation of 591 athletes and 200 officials will be leaving from Dec. 7 up to Dec. 10.

"Avoid technical fouls," said PBA officer-in-charge Sonny Barrios, citing one such call that helped doom the all-pro RP team in a key game during Fiba Asia Championship last July in Tokushima, Japan.

"When you play for the country, take no prisoners. Go for the kill from minute one to the end."

Coach Junel Baculi said his wards are up to the challenge. The cagers get going against Cambodia on Dec. 7, then play Indonesia on Dec. 9, Malaysia on Dec. 11 and Thailand on Dec. 13.

"We're not just physically prepared but also mentally ready for this competition," said Baculi, who will rely on versatile Fil-Am Gabe Norwood, two-time PBL Most Valuable Player Jason Castro and UAAP MVP Jervy Cruz.

The team, though, will leave without former Ginebra center Alex Crisano, who failed to submit necessary documents.

National women's coach Fritz Gaston also expressed confidence in his team's chances following a runner-up finish in the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) in Thailand last October.

"This is for the 90 million Filipinos and we'll make sure they won't feel ashamed," said Mikee Romero, SEAG basketball delegation head. "We'll bring home the gold."

Bumgarner big in maiden Formula race

MARK BUMGARNER, ONE OF THE country's finest young drivers, made a successful transition from karting to Formula cars recently, finishing an impressive ninth overall after two races of the 2007 Asian Formula Renault Challenge at the Shanghai International Circuit in China.

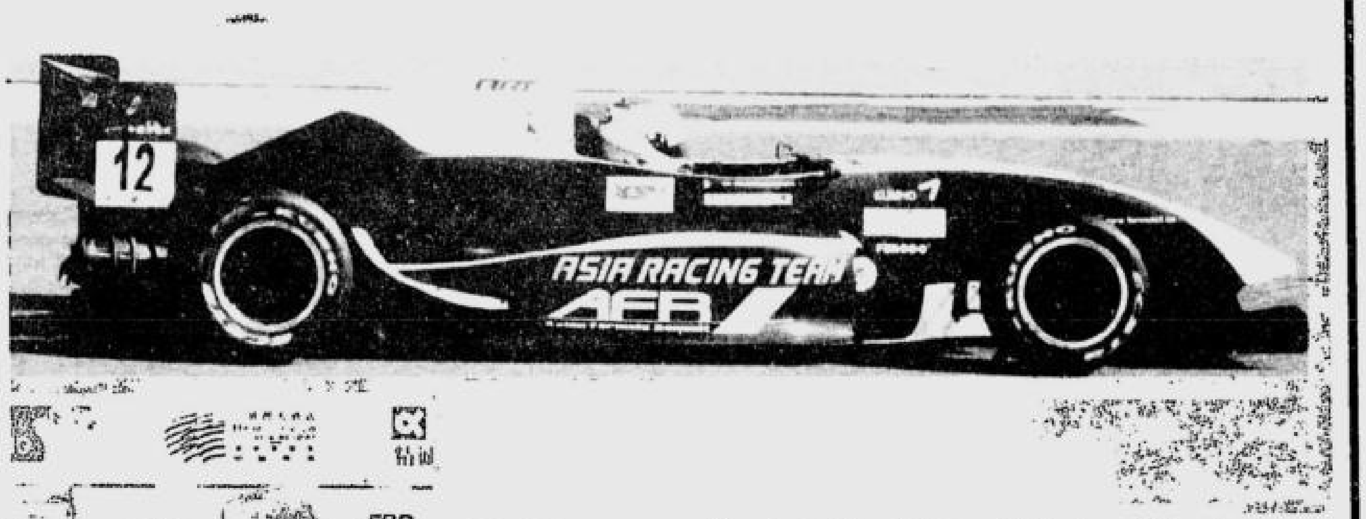
Driving for Asia Racing Team (ART) Motorsports, the 16-year-old Bumgarner distinguished himself in the 17-man driver field by holding his own against his more experienced rivals and finishing third among Asian drivers.

Starting 11th at the start of the combined race in the morning, Bumgarner overtook several rivals and was running eighth when he spun out while trying to pass the seventh-running Chinese Formula Renault driver Jim Kato. He settled for 15th place.

But the rookie son of an American businessman and his Filipino wife from Zambales already made his mark by posting a third-place windup among Asian drivers.

ART Motorsports team manager Philippe Descombes praised Bumgarner's results and the team's progress in the very competitive Shanghai races.

"Mark did well today," Descombes commented. "I'm really impressed at how he makes progress each time he takes the car out on the track."



FRD
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FRD
Formula Open

MARK Bumgarner tackles the final straight for a third-place windup in the 2007 Asian Formula Renault Challenge at the Shanghai International Circuit in China. Inset, the 16-year-old protégé of ART Motorsports on the podium.

"He was quite brave fighting with the more experienced drivers," Descombes added. "I think that based on what we have seen this weekend, Mark can be very competitive next year in Formula Renault 2.0."

Bumgarner attended the Bob Bondurant Racing School for five days early this year to qualify for an open-wheel racing license in the United States and gained high-level skills needed for Formula racing.

He successfully completed a three-day test with ART Race Team Formula Renault 2.0 in Zhuhai last October on wet and dry conditions.

The younger brother of former Asian karting queen Michele Bumgarner is slated to race again in Formula Renault on Dec. 15 and 16 in Zhuhai in a support race for A1GP and AF3 events.

Stints in Formula Renault series next year in Asia and other Formula classes in North America have also been scheduled for him.

Barbosa stuns Iranian GM, shares lead with So, Laylo

From page A21

pero Pichay Cup International Open chess championship at the Duty Free Fiesta Mall in Parañaque City.

The 21-year-old Barbosa exploited the white pieces to prevail in 35 moves of an Old Indian and share top spot with three other perfect scorers.

Sharing the limelight with the former national junior champion from Taytay, Rizal, were countrymen GM Darwin Laylo, GM-candidate Wesley So and top seed GM Ni Hua of China, who also tallied 3.0 points.

So beat No. 19 WGM Li Ruofan of China in 45 moves of the Bishop's opening to prop up his bid for his third and final GM result.

Laylo, who earned his GM title during the Asian Individual Chess Championships in Mandaue City in September, humbled unheralded David Elorta.

Living up to his lofty Elo rating of 2641, Ni subdued International Master Oliver Dimakiling in 59 moves of the Gruenfeld's Defense.

GM-candidate Jayson Gonzales whipped Chinese Shen Siyuan to join GM Rogelio Antonio Jr. and six others with 2.5 points each.

Unable to gain headway, Antonio, the country's highest ranked player, settled for a draw with IM Tirto of Indonesia.

Also with the same score were GM-candidate Ronald Dableo, who tripped Ibaryu Adnate; Singapore-based IM Julio Catalino Sadorra, who split the point with Chinese GM Li Chao; IM Richard Bitoon, who trounced IM Barlo Nadera; Vietnamese GM Dao Thien Hai, who drew with Chinese WIM Huang Qian; and Vietnamese GM Nguyen Anh Dung, who thwarted Chinese WGM Gu Xiaobing.

Int'l mixed martial arts stars mix it up at Big Dome Dec. 9

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IS THERE A PLACE FOR A NO-HOLDS-barred sport like mixed martial arts in a country where people take things personally?

Apparently there is, according to Fearless Fighting Productions USA chief Benny Tuazon Jr., who said that the fight sport has been enjoyed by enthusiasts here for years.

"I tell you one thing, it has been here for a long time," said Tuazon, who is born to Filipino parents in the United States. "We are just taking it to the next level by bringing all the best fighters in the world, especially those from the United States and Europe."

The roots of the sport here prompted Tuazon to make the Philippines the first Asian country to witness mixed world-caliber martial arts action through the "Ring of Fire: World Team Challenge," on Dec. 9 at the Araneta Coliseum.

"The sport raised eyebrows in the 1990s," said Tuazon, "but so many guidelines have been implemented since then."

Tuazon said that action in the Ring of Fire fight program will be for real.

"Our reputation is important to us," said Hawaiian Kino Leopoldo, who will coach the alternate team. "There are two ways to go outside the ring. One is to get carried out like this (clutching somebody by the neck) and on a stretcher. Horizontally."

RING OF FIRE: Organizers of the "Ring of Fire: World Team Challenge," a fight card involving the world's toughest mixed martial arts masters, speak in yesterday's news conference in Quezon City. From left, Herth Hearring; Ron Dela Torre, CEO of Platinum Fighting Productions; Kino Leopoldo and Benny Tuazon, Jr. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Sporting tattoos that covered his massive 6-foot-3 frame, Leopoldo added: "You will see every single guy fighting top-notch, high-caliber action. We have to protect our reputation."

There will be four teams clashing in the explosive one-day event—Team Gokor, Team Shamrock, Team Gracie and Team Barnett.

Big-name mixed martial artists Jeff Monzon, Renato "Babalu" Sobral, Rico Rodriguez, John Marsh, Yuki Kondo and Jorge "Macaco" Patino arrived over the weekend to help promote the event. They will visit malls and schools prior to the Dec. 9 action, according to Tuazon.

Aguilar eyes two crowns Sunday

THE NAMSSA NATIONAL MOTOCROSS SERIES stages its championship round on Sunday at the Fast Track Circuit in Taguig City with Glenn Aguilar expected to stamp his name as the Philippines' greatest all-time champion.

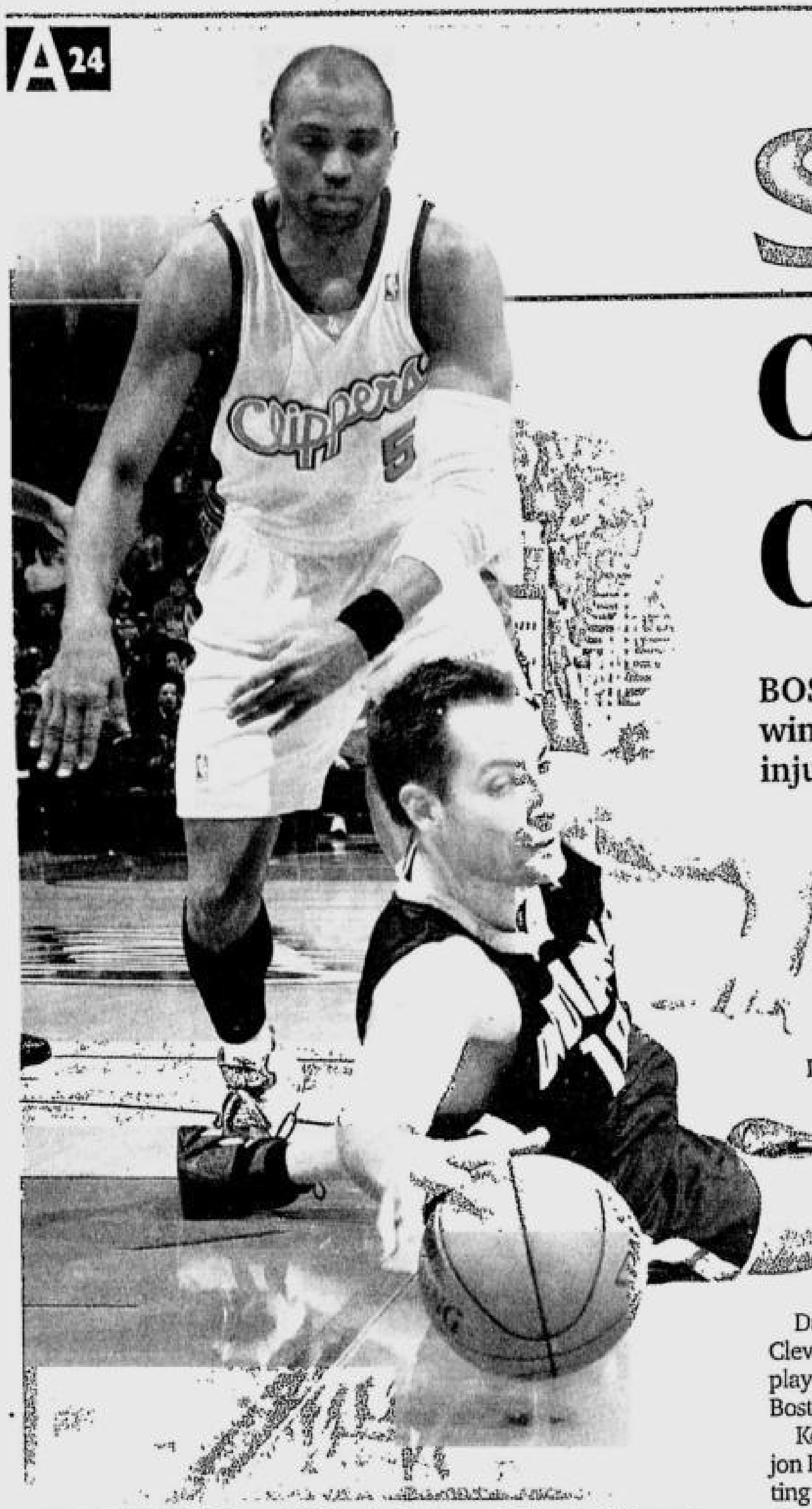
Already with 22 national titles, Aguilar will be gunning for both the Pro 125 International and the Pro Open plums of this event organized by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association.

Aguilar virtually bagged the Pro 125 International crown with 313 points or a 57-point margin over former junior champion Kenneth San Andres who accumulated 256 points.

However, Aguilar sees a tight duel for the Pro Open plum where he holds a 20-point edge over San Andres, his former teammate who's proving to be a worthy rival.

Aguilar tallied 335 points against San Andres (315) after splitting honors in the last leg.

SPORTS



THE PACERS' Jeff Foster (10) grabs the loose ball as the Clippers' Cuttino Mobley closes in. AFP

Celts dump James-less Cavs; Spurs rip Blazers

BOSTON—THE BOSTON CELTICS POSTED AN 80-70 HOME win over the Cleveland Cavaliers, who struggled without the injured LeBron James on Sunday.

THE SPURS' Tim Duncan holds his right knee after a fall. AP

Ray Allen led the league-leading Celtics (14-2) with 20 points, but neither team shot well.

Boston made just 37.5 percent of its field-goal attempts and had 15 turnovers. Cleveland sank 32.9 percent of its shots and gave up the ball 18 times.

The victory, the ninth in a row at home for Boston, did little to impress coach Doc Rivers.

"There will be no video on this game, hopefully," Rivers told reporters.

"It was a win and we'll take the win."

Allen scored 13 of his points in the first half, which ended with Boston ahead, 43-39.

Daniel Gibson's three-pointer brought Cleveland within four at 48-44 with 8:59 to play but the next eight points belonged to Boston.

Kevin Garnett hit two free throws, then Rajon Rondo went on a six-point scoring run, hitting a driving layup off an assist by Paul Pierce then scoring on consecutive jumpers.

Rondo finished with 12 points, Garnett scoring nine and Pierce seven.

"We just didn't have the energy we normally come out with," Pierce, who was 2 of 7 from the field, told reporters.

Zydrunas Ilgauskas topped Cleveland with 12 points and 13 rebounds.

James, who sprained his left index finger on Tuesday, watched the game from the Cleveland bench. His is day-to-day.

Tim Duncan bruised his right knee and sprained his right ankle in a first-half fall in the San Antonio Spurs' 100-79 home win over the Portland Trail Blazers. Tests on Monday will determine how long he will be out, the Spurs said.

Tony Parker had 27 points and eight assists in San Antonio's third successive win.

The Golden State Warriors streaked to their sixth consecutive victory by beating the Seattle SuperSonics, 109-96 .

Carmelo Anthony scored 30 points and Marcus Camby pulled down 21 rebounds in the Denver Nuggets' 115-89 home win over the Miami Heat. Dwyane Wade was held to 13 points and Shaquille O'Neal scored only six.

Grant Hill and Amare Stoudemire each had 28 points and Steve Nash handed out 15 assists in the Phoenix Suns' 115-104 road win over the New York Knicks.

Eddy Curry and Stephon Marbury led the Knicks with 21 each. Marbury's father, who attended the game, died afterward in a New York hospital, The New York Times reported on its website.

Richard Hamilton had 19 points and Chauncey Billups 18 as the Detroit Pistons topped the New Jersey Nets, 118-95.

Hedo Turkoglu's three-pointer put Orlando in the lead to stay and the Magic beat the Los Angeles Lakers, 104-97. Rashard Lewis led Orlando with 18 points with Turkoglu getting 14. Kobe Bryant scored 28 for the Lakers. *Reuters*

Williams leads NBA Manila visitors

A HIGH-PROFILE NBA DELEGATION, led by former Detroit and Toronto standout Jerome Williams, will be flying to Manila on Dec. 10 to look into opportunities at community projects and the country's sports development programs.

Aside from Williams, who is one of the National Basketball Association's official goodwill ambassadors, also with the group are Donald Ross III, NBA Entertainment executive director, and Jemel Buck, operations director of Adams Center, a non-profit community center supported by the NBA.

Angeles University Foundation and Private Schools Athletic Association president Emmanuel Angeles is arranging the trip of the NBA contingent.

Angeles described the group's visit as a "chance of a lifetime for Philippine sports."

"We are pleased that the NBA has chosen the Philippines, whose fans are avid watchers of the NBA games and its icons, to share its expertise and knowhow as part of its community outreach," Angeles said.

Angeles disclosed that the NBA wants to put up an international basketball academy locally and another huge project "that we will give them the privilege to announce once they are here."

He added that the inputs and insights gained from the visit "will also be valuable in enhancing the Private Schools Athletic Association as an institution and its programs nationwide."

Acting as group spokesman is the 6-foot-9 Williams, a former Georgetown University star who earned the moniker "Junk Yard Dog" for his tenacity and work ethic during his nine-year NBA stint.

Williams was an active social and civic leader during his playing days so when he retired, he was tapped as an NBA Cares Community Ambassador.

His role includes working with community and youth programs that support education, family development and health-related causes.

On the other hand, Ross joined the staff of NBA Entertainment in 1997. Among his accomplishments was developing a weekly video satellite service for all 30 NBA teams. He was also the NBA Players Association basketball camp director in 1995 and 1996.

As operations director for the

Angeles said among the highlights of the group's seven-day visit is a courtesy call on President Macapagal-Arroyo and a session with Clark Development Corp. president Levy Laus.

WILLIAMS: Social and civic leader

US looks forward to Davis Cup title defense

PORTLAND, OREGON—AFTER wrapping up its first Davis Cup title in 12 years, the United States looks forward to a daunting run of likely away ties in its 2008 defense.

Although the triumphant Americans have become formidable on hardcourt surfaces, doubles specialist Bob Bryan accepts they face an uphill task playing top claycourt teams away from home.

"It's going to be tough to win two singles matches against a Spain or an Argentina," Bryan told a news conference after losing his reverse singles to Russia's Igor Andreev on Sunday.

The US has been drawn to play Austria away in their opening World Group match in February. After that, it faces the prospect of France at home.

JAMES Blake (left) receives a hug from US team captain Patrick McEnroe following his victory over Dmitry Tursunov. AP

A key to the Americans 2007 success was winning two tricky away ties against the Czech Republic, in the first round, and Sweden in the semi-finals.

"The win in Ostrava was big because we played a claycourt away tie against a very good team,". US captain Patrick McEnroe said as he celebrated his team's breakthrough Davis Cup success after seven unsuccessful years in charge.

"The three other years we've made it far, the semis twice and the finals, we played very strong countries on clay.

"So this year, when we won that, we thought maybe things can break right for us," added McEnroe, whose team completed a 4-1 victory over Russia in the final.

Major pluses for the US in their its campaign were the form of world number six Andy Roddick, who won all six singles matches, and the dominance of the Bryan brothers, the world's top-ranked doubles team.

In this final, though, the pivotal match was the 6-3 7-6 6-7 7-6 victory by James Blake over Mikhail Youzhny. *Reuters*

Thailand foots SEAG bill for 3 countries

BANGKOK—HOSTS THAILAND WILL foot the bill for three cash-strapped countries to send teams to this week's Southeast Asian Games, an official said on Monday.

Games organisers agreed to cover the expenses of Laos, Cambodia and East Timor, which are among the world's poorest countries, after their hard-up Olympic committees asked for help.

"Thailand wants unity at the SEA Games and since we have 11 member countries, we want all of them to be here," Charoen Wattanasin, secretary of the organising committee, told Reuters.

East Timor, whose Olympic committee is beset by administrative and financial problems, will send only seven athletes to Nakhon Ratchasima, with Games organisers picking up the tab.

The teams from Laos and Cambodia will travel for hours along their notoriously potholed roads before being picked up at their borders by a fleet of Thai buses.

Charoen said accommodation and transport for the three countries' athletes will also be provided.

The biennial SEA Games officially open on Thursday, although the soccer and shooting events are already underway.

Some 5,000 athletes from Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, East Timor, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Brunei, Myanmar and the Philippines, will compete in 43 sports, with 475 gold medals up for grabs. *Reuters*

Japanese batters stay unbeaten; Koreans subdue Filipinos, 13-1

TOKYO—JAPANESE MEDIA MONday hailed their all-star baseball team's narrow win over rival South Korea, but the squad insisted they were taking nothing for granted on the road to the Beijing Olympics.

The Japanese, led by former Hanshin Tigers skipper Senichi Hoshino, edged out the South Koreans, usually their top competitors in Asia, in a nail-biting 4-3 Olympic qualifier in Taiwan Sunday.

The Mainichi Shimbun's front page showed Hoshino shaking hands with closer Koji Uehara, of the Yomiuri Giants, who shut out the Koreans in the last inning.

"Hoshino Japan are on the verge of achieving checkmate for the Olympics," the Mainichi wrote.

The Sankei Shimbun said: "Japan clinched an all-out battle and took a big step towards the Beijing Olympics."

With the win, Japan now lead the four-team group with two wins and no losses at the 24th Asian Baseball Championship.

Japan take on Taiwan on Monday and a surprisingly strong performance by the home side could still hand the championship to South Korea, which routed last-placed Philippines, 13-1.

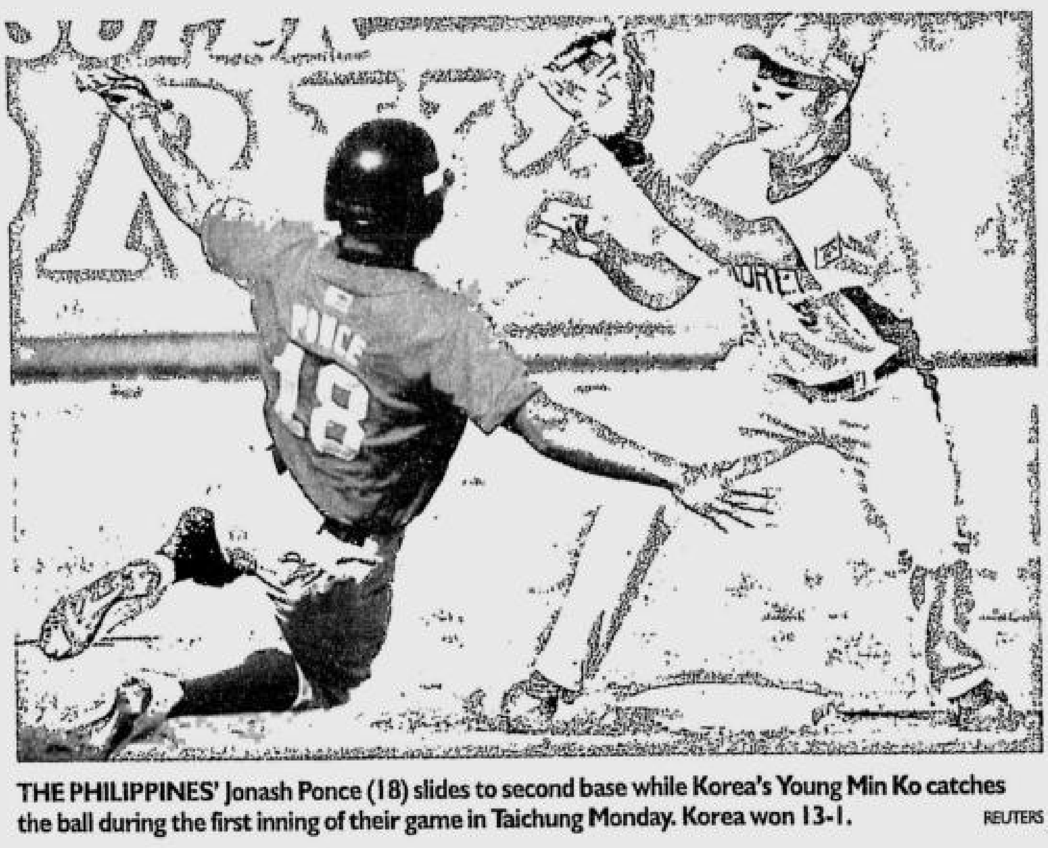
"I haven't been so excited in such a long time," Osamu Higashio, a pitcher-turned-commentator, wrote in the Sports Nippon. "Now we face the final game. If players perform to their abilities, we can see good results."

Hoshino has already named as the starting pitcher Nippon Ham Fighters right-hander Yu Darvish, who won this year's Sawamura Award for best Japanese hurler.

Only one team will be awarded a berth at the Beijing 2008 Olympics, while the second and third-placed teams will have to compete in March with six other teams from outside Asia for the final three berths.

In addition to host China, which has an automatic berth, the United States, Cuba and the Netherlands have already qualified.

Japan last year beat Cuba to win the inaugural 16-nation World Baseball Classic tournament. *AFP*



THE PHILIPPINES' Jonash Ponce (18) slides to second base while Korea's Young Min Ko catches the ball during the first inning of their game in Taichung Monday. Korea won 13-1. REUTERS

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Peso hits 7 1/2-yr high of 42.27 to $1

IN THIS ISSUE
- **Tax breaks** for proposed REITs sought /B4
- **Strong peso delays** RP export plan /B5

Local currency seen breaching 42 level soon

By Doris C. Dumlao

AN UPBEAT FOREIGN INVESTOR SENTIMENT ALLOWED the peso to defy rough regional currency markets and rally to a new seven-and-a-half-year high of 42.27 to a dollar before closing at 42.305 yesterday in the aftermath of a failed mutiny last week.

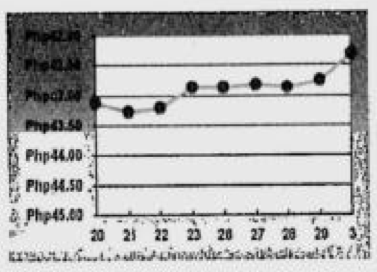
The peso, which was also supported by the strong inflows from overseas Filipino workers that accumulated during the long weekend, gained 44.5 centavos from Thursday's finish of 42.75 to a dollar.

Currency traders said the local currency opened at 42.55 and appreciated

PESO / B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 42.305 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Dec. 3, 2007

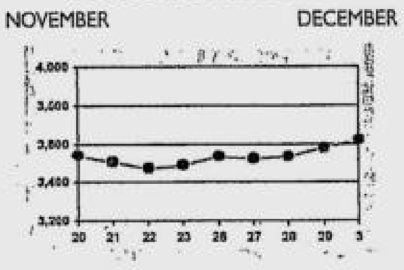
¥ 111.15 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Nov. 30, 2007

GOLD: $788.90-789.40
per ounce Hong Kong, Dec. 3, 2007

STOCK MARKET

Shares close higher

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

SHARE PRICES closed 1.4-percent higher yesterday, buoyed by hopes of a further interest rate cut in the United States, dealers said.

They said investors had overcome nervousness over a possible fallout following last week's siege of the Peninsula Hotel by mutinous soldiers.

The composite index finished up 48.33 points at 3,626.88, off a high of 3,652.34. A total of 3.7 billion shares worth P6.4 billion changed hands.

There were 113 gainers and 16 decliners, while 36 stocks were unchanged.

The broader all-share index rose 34.89 points to 2,207.46.

Dealers said a pull-back by market heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) tempered gains in early trade.

"Investors overcame their nervousness (following a short-lived rebellion in Makati last Thursday) and are focused again on the bullish outlook for the domestic economy, and encouraged as well by gains in overseas markets late last week," said Ron Rodrigo of DBP Daiwa Securities.

Wall Street advanced Friday, extending the previous day's gains, after Fed Chair Ben Bernanke's comments boosted optimism the US central bank will lower interest rates again this month after cutting them in its last two policy meetings.

Philippine financial markets were closed on Friday for a public holiday.

"Political uncertainty is weighing on investors' minds but it's hard for them to ignore the pace of economic growth that we are now seeing, which is the fastest in many years," Rodrigo said.

PLDT fell P40 to P3,060, giving up early gains.

Ayala Land advanced 50 centavos to P15.75 while Metrobank jumped P2.50 to P56.50.

San Miguel Corp.'s A-shares, limited to local investors, rose 50 centavos to P50.50. The food and beverage conglomerate's B-shares were steady at P50.50.

AFP

PSBank
U$Dollar
TIME DEPOSIT

	$1,000 to 9,999	$10,000 to 49,999	$50,000 to 99,999	$100,000 and up
1 month	3.50%	3.50%	3.63%	3.75%
2 months	3.50%	3.63%	3.75%	3.88%
3 months	3.63%	3.75%	3.75%	3.88%
6 months	3.75%	3.88%	3.88%	4.00%
12 months	3.88%	4.00%	4.13%	4.25%

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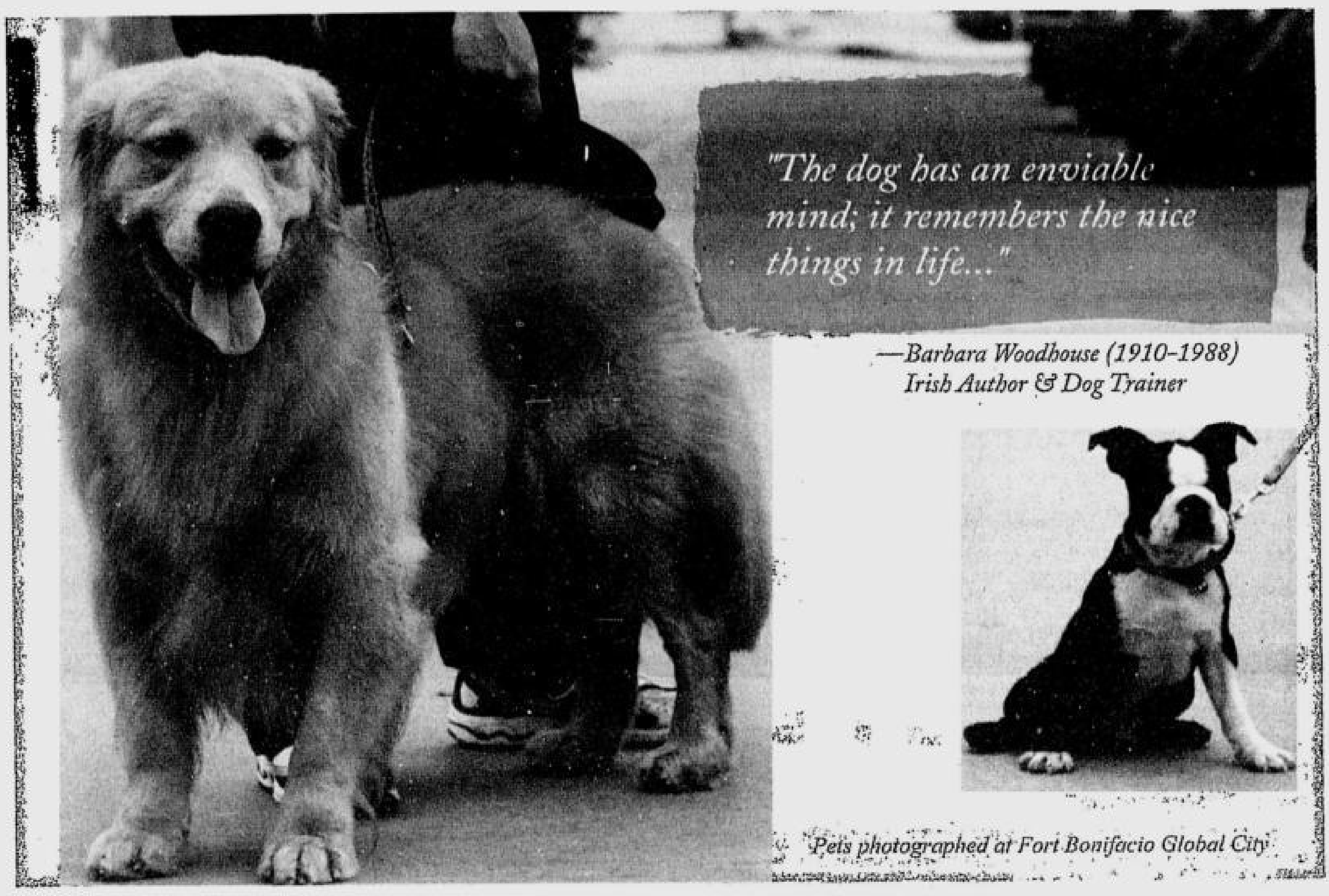

"The dog has an enviable mind; it remembers the nice things in life..."

—Barbara Woodhouse (1910-1988)
Irish Author & Dog Trainer

Pets photographed at Fort Bonifacio Global City

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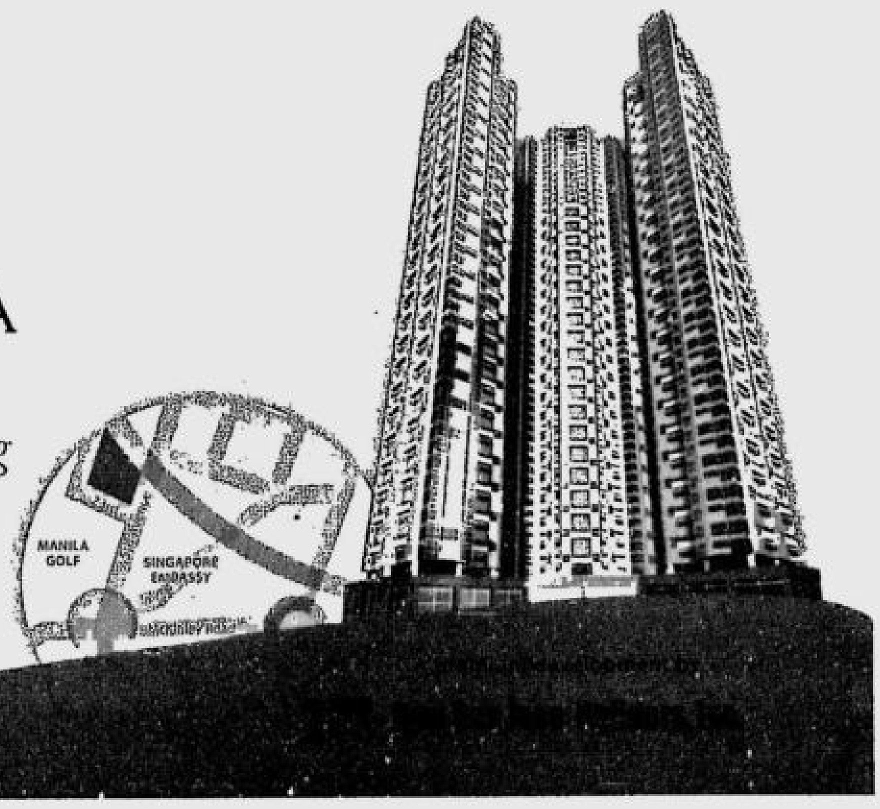

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Politics in business

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THE PCCI WILL ELECT ITS 2008 president this week.

That's the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which is the biggest business organization in the country—and perhaps even the most influential.

In fact, the PCCI is so influential, its so-called Three Stooges have turned what should have been their temporary stints in the organization into lifetime careers.

Thus, according to certain PCCI members, the organization today is becoming even more politicized.

Insiders disclosed that this year's election for president, which is to be performed by the 20-man board, is turning out to be a three-cornered fight.

One supposedly enjoys the backing of this coup-attempt-infested yet-still-cute administration of Gloriaetta, while another supposedly got the endorsement of the newly pardoned man called Band ... Wrist Band.

What's this? Edsa IV? And so do you still wonder why, in this country, military adventurism is developing into a separate industry?

* * *

ANYWAY, it seems that only the incumbent PCCI president, Samie Lim, who is into retail business, such as the "Automatic" chain of appliance stores and the "Blims" chain of furniture stores, has no political affiliation.

Still, the selection of the PCCI president owes much to the "proxy" system. The board actually picks the president from among its members, who in turn elected themselves to the board through ... well, "proxies."

The so-called Three Stooges control majority of those proxies. So much so that one of them at any one time serves as PCCI chair, another serves as "honorary" chair and the last one becomes chair "emeritus."

Come on, *mamon*, how many kinds of chair does a business organization really need?

In business, anyway, the guessing game concerns who, among the three aspirants above, will the Three Stooges support.

Only this year, the PCCI leadership has somehow showed the way in targeting the country's economic growth rate, when Lim set a growth target of 7 percent for GDP.

This administration then adopted Plan 789, which targeted a 7-percent growth for 2007, 8 percent for 2008 and 9 percent for 2009.

As it turned out, during the first quarter of 2007, the GDP growth rate hit 6.9 percent, and what's more, for the first semester, it zoomed to an amazing 7.5-percent growth rate.

* * *

ANDREW Tan, founder of Megaworld, recently named by Forbes magazine as the country's fourth richest man, donated P120 million worth of property to the PCCI.

Tan is a member of the PCCI council of advisers, a new group created by Lim only this year, which includes the six "original" taipans (Lucio Tan, George Ty, Andrew Gotianun, Henry Sy, George Ty and John Gokongwei Jr.), plus executives of top performing groups like San Miguel vice chair and president Ramon Ang, and ICTSI chair and president Enrique Razon Jr.

Anyway, for the first time ever, due to Andrew Tan's huge donation, the PCCI will have its own office building.

* * *

THAT should come as a comfort to PCCI members, since the Bureau of Customs already canceled its deal with the PCCI for the "asycuda" import inspection system.

That is the "automated system for customs data," in which the PCCI acted as "contractor" of the BOC for checking the customs declarations of importers.

Early last month, after almost 12 years of its being in place, the BOC terminated the PCCI version of the "asycuda."

Well, Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile has been badgering the BOC about it, calling the deal "illegal" since the BOC has been extending the contract to the PCCI for the past several years without public bidding.

I heard that somebody is readying a case against Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales, along with PCCI personalities involved in the deal, before the Ombudsman.

Insiders tell me that, this year, the PCCI uses about P11 million from the income of the "asycuda" contract for its project.

Our contacts at BOC, however, reveal that the PCCI earns at least P30 million (gross) from the system.

Just where the rest of the money goes, may be an interesting subject of investigation by Congress.

Now, replacing the PCCI in the "asycuda" are three private contractors. The real identities of the people behind those three lucky groups are still hush-hush.

* * *

ONE of the grand plans of the publicly listed TKC Steel Corp., which just did a "follow on offering," or FOO, is to become the country's first integrated steel mill.

That is the long-term goal, of course. But today the company is refurbishing the two blast furnaces that it acquired (free of charge) from the new owners of the plant of the defunct National Steel Co.

Heading the steel project is Ben Tiu, the eldest of three brothers (including Gerry and Benjamin), a family that has been in the steel business as producers of pipes for the past 50 years or so.

So what makes the Tiu brothers think that this country, which have only low-grade iron deposits, can compete with the likes of China in the steel industry?

From what I heard from the presentation of TKC Steel to fund managers, the company is going for niche market in seamless steel pipes for oil and gas industries. Thus, it does not intend to compete head-on against the giant steel companies in the world.

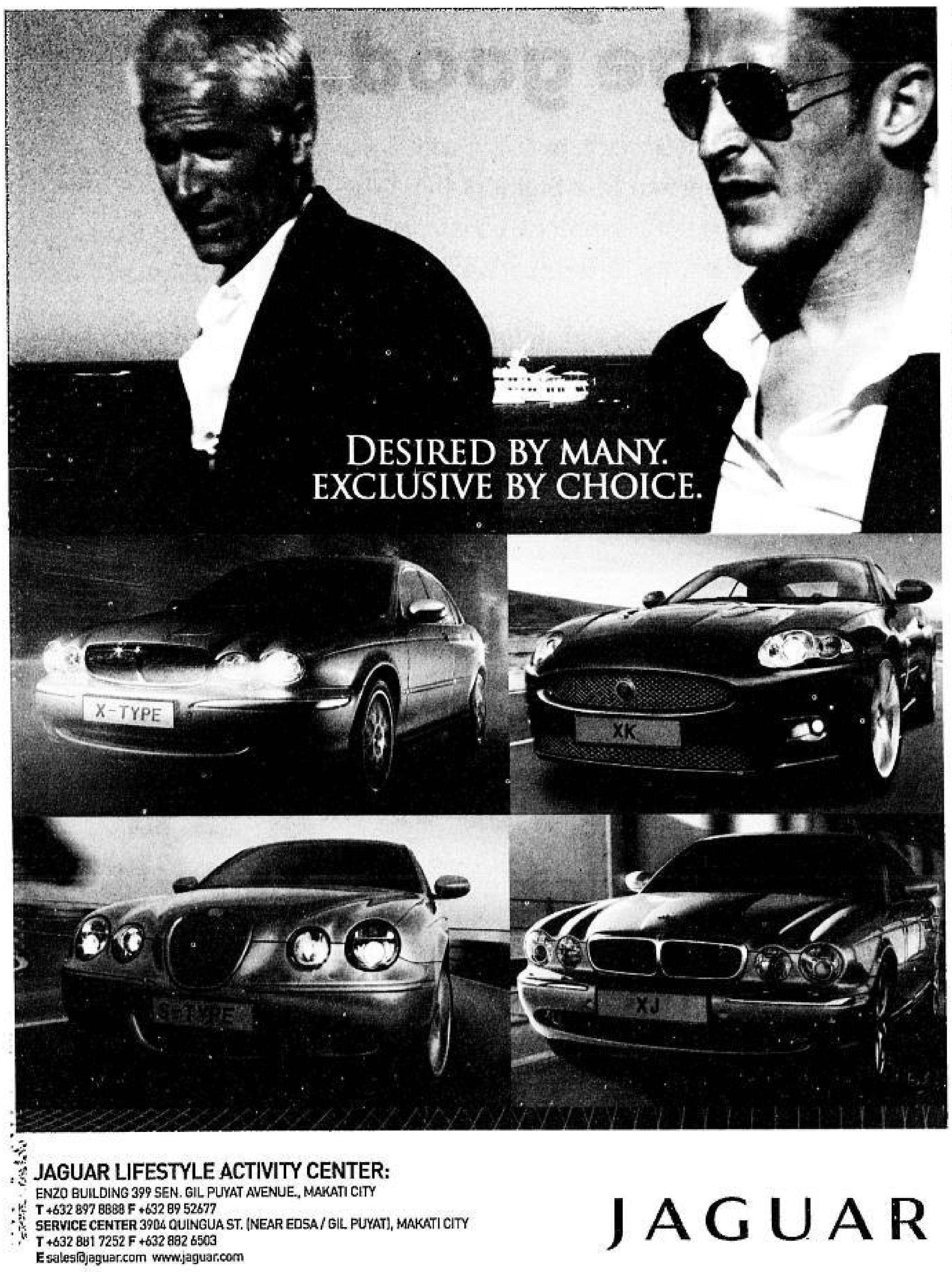
Besides, the Philippines may have "low" grade iron ore—or at least not as high a grade of iron ore from, say, Chile—but such a difference in iron ore grade can be offset by the rising cost of fuel.

I mean, really, how far away do you think Chile is from the TKC plant, compared to Mindanao?

In other words, this country now has a chance in the steel business. The old wisdom on steel mills here is that we do not have enough iron deposits for giant steel plants.

But do we really need big mills? Remember, we use up less than 2 million tons of steel a year. And so, the iron deposits here can still feed small mills that, in turn, can be enough for our requirement.

Now, if only the mining industry can stage a resurgence ...



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BSP currency swaps climb

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG Pilipinas has increased its use of currency swaps, engaging in heavier foreign exchange purchases in October.

Based on the latest official data, the BSP's outstanding foreign currency swaps surged to $9.2 billion at end-October from $6.35 billion at end-September as the central bank intervened heavily at the spot foreign exchange market to curb the peso's sharp appreciation against the US dollar.

In August, when global risk aversion due to the US property downturn reached its peak, the BSP's currency swaps were at $5.2 billion.

But when the US Federal Reserve eased its benchmark interest rates in September to prevent an economic recession, Asia's emerging markets, including the Philippines, marked a strong resurgence in foreign portfolio inflows.

Based on current levels, the BSP's outstanding swaps appear to be moving closer to the all-time record of $10 billion posted in May.

Since last year, the BSP has been using swaps to mop up excess foreign exchange purchased from the Philippine Dealing System.

Swaps refer to the simultaneous purchase and sale of currencies over a specific maturity date. Upon maturity, the currencies are returned at a previously agreed rate so that the concerned parties end up with their original currencies.

In the case of the BSP, it immediately locks up some of the foreign currencies it buys to prevent the equivalent peso amount from pouring into the financial system, effectively delaying the conversion of foreign inflows into the local currency.

The BSP's outstanding swaps also indicated how much more the country's gross international reserves (GIR) could rise if the contracts were to be scrapped.

In October, the GIR stood at a record $32.4 billion, rising from $30.9 billion in September.

Telco woes far from over as antigraft court asked to nullify board elections

By Daxim L. Lucas

AN OFFICIAL OF THE Philcomsat group of companies has asked the Sandiganbayan to stop the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) from recognizing the new set of company directors installed by Malacañang last month.

At the same time, Philippine Overseas Telecommunications Corp. (POTC) and Philippine Communications Satellite Corp. (Philcomsat) director and vice president Concepcion A. Poblador also asked the antigraft court to nullify the results of the Nov. 19, 2007 meeting that installed a new set of government nominees on the boards of both sequestered firms.

But Philcomsat director Erlinda I. Bildner, who leads the private shareholders' group, had repeatedly denied the claims of the rival faction, which she called "absurd," especially since their claim to legitimacy is based on a decision that has already been superseded by other events.

Bildner described the Locsin-Poblador group as being "desperate" after Malacañang replaced them as nominees last week.

Poblador alleged in the complaint to the Sandiganbayan that no such meetings were called or authorized by the corporations, through their respective board of directors and officers.

"PCGG cannot recognize any such meetings or the installation of new government nominees held thereat, since such meetings are illegal," Poblador said. "The acts of defendant (Presidential Management Staff Undersecretary) Enrique Perez, of allegedly representing and voting the shareholdings of the government in POTC during the meeting, and claiming to have authority to install the new nominees in an illegal board, is patently illegal and must be so declared by this honorable court."

Poblador also alleged that the PCGG cannot recognize the illegal meetings "since such recognition would be tantamount to a ratification of the acts of dissipation and depletion of sequestered assets, done with the connivance of former PCGG comptrollers and asset monitors, in violation of the mandate of the commission to preserve sequestered assets."

Last month, Malacañang appointed a fresh set of nominees in the contested firms, in what was billed as the end to the bitter rivalry between the Locsin-Poblador and the Africa-Bildner groups.

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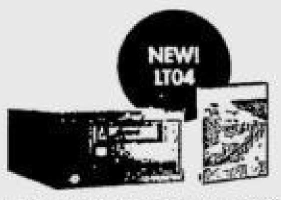

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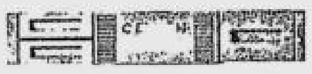

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Tax breaks for proposed REITs sought

PSE proposal aimed at boosting real estate sector

By Michelle V. Remo

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXchange has asked the government to exempt from the 35-percent corporate income tax the proposed "real estate investment trusts" (REITs).

REITs, which are already in existence in advanced capital markets, are companies that would invest in real estate and property projects. REITs sell their shares to the public by listing in stock exchanges.

The PSE said the government would not be disadvantaged by granting REITs income tax exemption, as these companies can help boost the real estate sector and the entire economy, and therefore, increase the aggregate income tax collection of the government.

"REITs will attract domestic and foreign investments thereby increasing transactions in the capital market and ultimately providing a powerful catalyst in spurring growth of the national economy," the PSE said in a discussion paper on the proposed REITs.

The paper was submitted to the Department of Finance, which will study whether the proposed income-tax exemption was reasonable.

The PSE said governments of other countries have provided a climate conducive for the development of the REIT market mainly through the granting of tax exemption. "Their private sectors have therefore positively responded by putting up REITs," it added.

In Asia, countries that have REITs include Japan, Singapore, Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and Malaysia. Of these countries, Japan has the biggest REITs market with capitalization of $30.99 billion.

"Within a span of five years, the number of REITs in Asia grew from five in 2001 to about 80 in August 2006," the PSE said.

The exchange said investments in REITS were considered liquid, a quality that direct investments in real estate could not provide. Those who want to liquefy their investments in REITs may do so by selling their shares in the stock market.

Investing in the booming real estate industry while maintaining liquidity was a key strength of REITs.

The proposed REITs will have a policy of allocating 85 percent of its net income before extraordinary item, depreciation and amortization or Nida for dividends to investors.

The REITs should also invest the bulk of their funds in real estate and property projects, such as shopping centers, hotels and residential development ventures.

Automatic Center opens P200-M 'superbranch'

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LIM

AUTOMATIC APPLIANCES INC. HAS opened a P200-million "superbranch" at the Araneta Center in Quezon City to integrate its three appliance and furniture stores in a single, one-hectare venue.

Company president Samie Lim said products sold by Automatic Center, Blims Fine Furniture and Sogo Home and Office Center were gathered into one store to make room for further business innovations.

"In 1977, (our group) introduced in the country the 'room setting' style of selling furniture, innovating from the old way of ordering through catalogs before the products were actually made," Lim said. "The Automatic Super Center is our platform for a new innovation."

He said three condominium units were built within the "superbranch" to serve as showcases of the options buyers could adopt in their homes and of the company's products.

Lim said that aside from stores, the two-story establishment has an atrium that would host an area for real estate exhibits and trade fairs, including space reserved for the chamber of handicraft makers.

He added that the Automatic Super Center had a soft opening last week, with the appliances section in the ground floor now accessible to the public, but the grand opening was set for mid-December.

Lim said the appliance section was designed to be "interactive, entertaining and educational."

At the same time, the Blims section that cater to the high-end market would have at least 10 display areas for every room in the home.

Automatic Center, which is celebrating its 60th year in the business, has also opened its other new branch at the Hong Kong Sun Plaza along Roxas Boulevard in the southern area of Manila.

Lim said another store would be opened next year in Alabang, Muntinlupa to cater to the Southern Luzon market.

Gov't cancels scheduled corn importation

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE HAS canceled the planned importation of 270,000 metric tons of yellow corn.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Dennis B. Araullo said private companies who wanted to continue importing could do so, but would not be able to credit their importation under the volume approved by the DA.

"They won't be able to avail themselves of the zero-tariff importation for corn. If they plan to import, they have to pay the 35-percent tariff," said Araullo, who is also the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani Corn program director.

Araullo said that under a zero-tariff importation, the landed price of corn would be less than P15 a kilo. With the tariff, landed price could go as high as P18 a kilo.

Earlier, local feed millers have requested the duty-free importation of at least 700,000 MT of yellow corn due to the perceived corn production shortfall this year of as much as 1.8 million MT.

However, the government had projected the shortfall to reach 500,000 MT only, and had thus approved the importation of 400,000 MT in two tranches of 200,000 MT each.

Of the approved volume, only 130,000 MT had been procured and delivered early this year.

Last October, the bidding for the supply of 70,000 MT of corn failed due to high world market prices and the rising transport and delivery costs.

In the meantime, Araullo assured consumers and private companies that the canceled importation would have no effect on the local prices of corn.

In fact, he said, corn prices were only about P11.50 a kilo and this might even go further down during the harvest season early next year. *Amy Remo*

DA lifts restrictions on meat imports from US, Canada

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRIculture recently lifted import restrictions on all meat imports from the United States and Canada.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap has amended an order issued last July, imposing conditions on the importation of meat from these countries such as the following:

- Bone-in beef imports from these countries should come only from cattle of less than 30 months of age;
- Beef, whether boneless or bone-in should be devoid of specified risk materials (SRMs);
- Beef, whether boneless or bone-in, should come only from healthy ambulatory and now downer cattle;
- The age of the slaughtered cattle should be certified by the US Department of Agriculture or the Canadian Food Inspection Agency; and
- The production date or slaughter date of the beef should be included in the packaging label.

The DA had imposed these restrictions to prevent the entry of mad cow or Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) disease into the country. The Office Internationale des Epizooties or Animal Health Organization earlier declared the United States and Canada as countries with "controlled BSE risks."

With the lifting of the restrictions, the Philippines could now provide full market access to US and Canadian meat suppliers.

Earlier, Yap also temporarily banned imports of domestic and wild birds along with poultry products from Virginia and Nebraska, following official confirmation by US authorities of the presence of the bird flu virus in those areas.

He said the ban and other emergency measures were necessary to protect human health and the poultry industry in the Philippines, which has remained free of bird flu ever since the H5N1 strain of this virus resurfaced in Asia in 2003.

The DA has also imposed a similar ban on all live bird and poultry imports from Togo, Korea and the United Kingdom after the presence of the bird flu virus had been detected in these countries.

Treasury rejects all bids for 91-day T-bills

THE GOVERNMENT YESTERday rejected all bids for the bellwether 91-day treasury bills and some offers for the 364-day bills to keep banks from pushing interest rates up.

Had officials of the Bureau of the Treasury accepted the bids for the three-month securities, their average rate could have reached 3.809 percent, up by 13.7 basis points from the rate recorded in the auction two weeks ago.

The yield on the one-year debt instrument could have averaged at 5.667 percent, 10 basis points higher than the previous rate, had the BTr accepted P2.5 billion worth of bids as stated in its borrowing program.

The BTr awarded only P1.195 billion worth of bids. The one-year T-bill rate averaged at 5.558 percent, slightly lower than the rate in the last auction.

The most attractive debt paper yesterday were the 182-day bills, tenders for which amounted to P4 billion. This was double the P2 billion offering of the government. The BTr accepted P2 billion worth of bids for this instrument.

The yield on the 182-day bills settled at 4.637 percent, down by 5.5 basis points from its previous rate.

The move of banks to seek an increase in the 91-day T-bill rate surprised some BTr officials who expected a drop in the yields.

The officials said the yields demanded by banks were unreasonably high, considering that the government did not have to borrow too much from the domestic market.

They noted that the budget deficit for the year was not expected to exceed the ceiling of P63 billion set for 2007.

The government recently sold its remaining 60-percent stake in PNOC-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) for P58.5 billion.

Privatization revenues generated so far this year were said to be more than enough to compensate for shortfalls in tax collection.

The economy also performed better-than-expected in the first three quarters of the year, growing by 7.1 percent year-on-year. The government set its economic growth target at only 6.1-6.7 percent. *Michelle V. Remo*

Peso hits 7 1/2-yr high of 42.27 to $1

From page B1

throughout the day to close near the day's high of 42.27, the highest level hit by the peso since touching 42.07 on June 6, 2000.

Volume traded at the Philippine Dealing System amounted to $621.1 million.

"I think that in the case of the Philippines, the strength of the peso is a one-way street. It's just a question of up to how much it will rise further," a foreign banker said.

The banker predicted that the peso could break past the 42:$1 barrier and hit a high of 41.75 against the greenback before the year ends.

A currency dealer from a big local bank said: "The market is focusing again on fundamentals, on increased flows during the period so it favored the Philippine peso. Plus, we might be seeing a further weakening of the US dollar so it's also helping the sentiment other than the continuous inflows."

The trader said the foreign exchange market had discounted the short-lived political noise caused by the stand-off at the Manila Peninsula at the Makati central business district last Thursday.

The peso, now Asia's best performing currency this year, has gained 15 percent against the dollar after ending 2006 at 49.03:$1.

Other Southeast Asian currencies also firmed up against the dollar yesterday but concerns on the US property downturn weighed down other currencies in the region like the Singapore dollar, Taiwan dollar and the Korean won.

Consuelo Garcia, head of ING Philippines' financial markets, said the investment outlook was boosted by progress in the government's privatization of large power assets.

For instance, she noted the government's receipt last Thursday of P58.5 billion in payments for the sale of a controlling stake in geothermal crown jewel PNOC Energy Development Co.

ING, along with the state-owned Development of the Philippines, was a financial adviser to the PNOC-EDC privatization. The winning bidder was a consortium led by the Lopezes.

Garcia said also noted the government's successful bidding for the 175-megawatt Ambuklao-Binga hydropower plant complex, which was won by the Aboitiz group.

"The high-profile privatization of Transco (National Transmission Co.) will also fetch a very positive sentiment," she said.

Currency traders said similar to what happened during the failed Oakwood mutiny launched by Trillanes' group in 2003, the foreign exchange market was expected to rally after the weekend drama.

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Strong peso delays RP export plan

Council fends off threats to trade, postpones agenda until mid-'08

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FENDING OFF MORE THREATS to the local sector, the Export Development Council has been forced to hold off until mid-2008 the planning process for its new export plan.

Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., EDC vice chair and president of Philippine Exporters Confederation, said the plan that was initially meant to take effect in January was delayed due to the strengthening of the peso, historic global oil price hikes, more increases in the price of electricity and the slowdown of the United States economy.

These factors have forced organized exporters to trim this year's target from 11-percent growth to 6 percent or even lower.

"We need (the extension) to be able to really put more flesh to the plan," he said. "(These) trends moving against our survival have come in rapid succession in the second half of this year."

According to the official, the EDC needs to review and consolidate the drafts that Philexport regional units and industry associations have prepared.

"The resulting plan must be practical enough for the government and private sector to achieve," Ortiz-Luis said.

Drawing up the export plan may take until May, when the council hopes to submit the proposal to President Macapagal-Arroyo for approval, he said.

Ortiz-Luis reiterated calls for export groups to avail of a P280-million export promotion fund, of which only P30-million worth of projects has been tapped.

The fund was put together earlier this year to enable organized exporters to upgrade their ability to win bigger markets and counter the effects of a strengthening peso which has been eroding their margins.

Last week, Ortiz-Luis urged the government to intervene and stop the continued appreciation of the peso amid fresh forecasts that the currency would further strengthen in the coming years.

He said there was still a lot the government could do to address the trend that has been adversely affecting families of overseas Filipino workers and those whose livelihood depend on exports.

"The government can choose to ... peg the exchange rate to P47 to the dollar," Ortiz-Luis said. "It has always been saying that the steady uptrend is good for Filipinos, but nobody is benefiting from this except the government and smugglers."

Still on shopping mode, IPVG to buy more BPOs

By Riza T. Olchondra

LISTED INFORMATION and communications technology company IPVG Corp. is still on shopping mode, eyeing one or two other outsourcing companies, after it acquired contact center Global Stride and Nasdaq-listed PeopleSupport.

"We aim to be one of the top outsourcing companies in Asia, certainly in the Philippines, and it will take a few more acquisitions to achieve that," IPVG CEO Enrique Gonzales told the INQUIRER.

The acquisitions can be financed by tapping the debt market, which can later be repaid through cash generated by IPVG's businesses.

Gonzales declined to provide details on the name and nature of IPVG's future acquisitions.

Over the weekend, IPVG said it wants to buy into PeopleSupport Inc., which has more than 8,000 seats, mostly located in the Philippines.

IPVG will form a joint-venture company with AO Capital Partners Ltd. (AO Capital), a leading independent international investment house, to get a majority stake in People Support for about $355 million.

Both IPVG and AO Capital have agreed to infuse and raise necessary debt and equity funding from internal and third parties.

They have offered to buy PeopleSupport shares at $15 per share, or a valuation of $355 million. IPVG said the offer represents a 28-percent premium over PeopleSupport Inc.'s 60-day weighted average closing price of $11.72 on Nov. 29.

The listed firm is extremely bullish over the future of the BPO industry in the Philippines.

Demand is expected to continue to grow at a double digit pace over the next several years. Also, the overall Philippine BPO market is seen to grow to $11 billion, with over 500,000 seats by 2010 from $2.1 billion and 200,000 seats in 2006.

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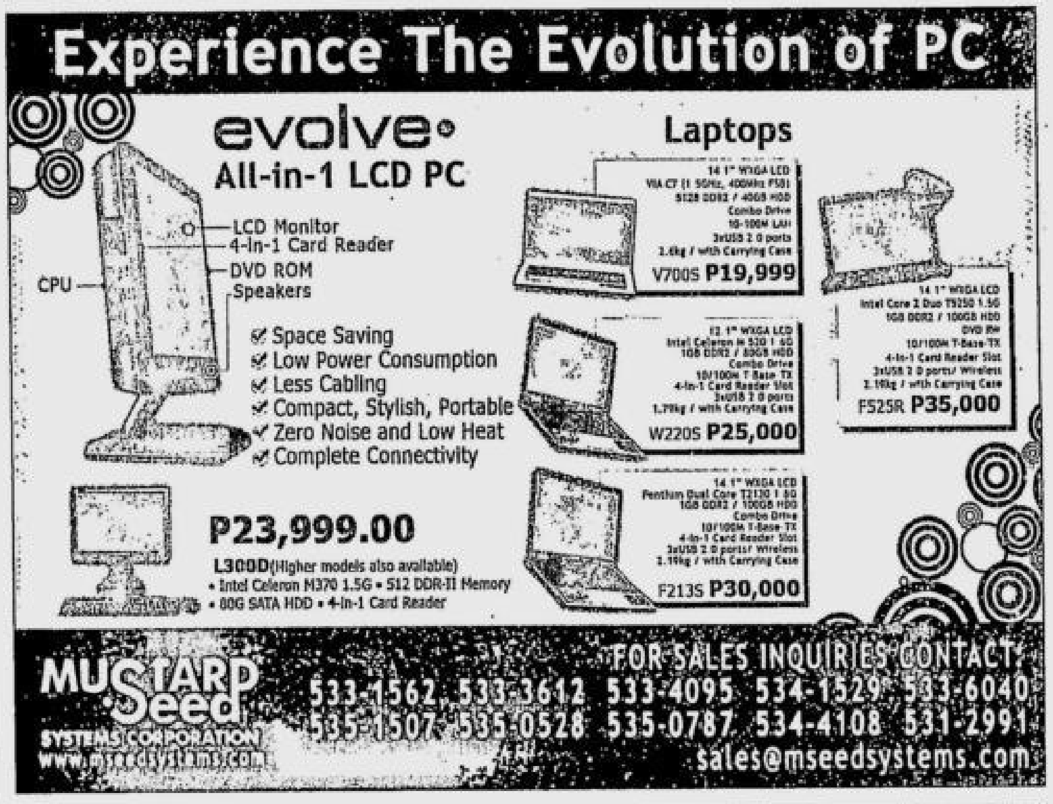
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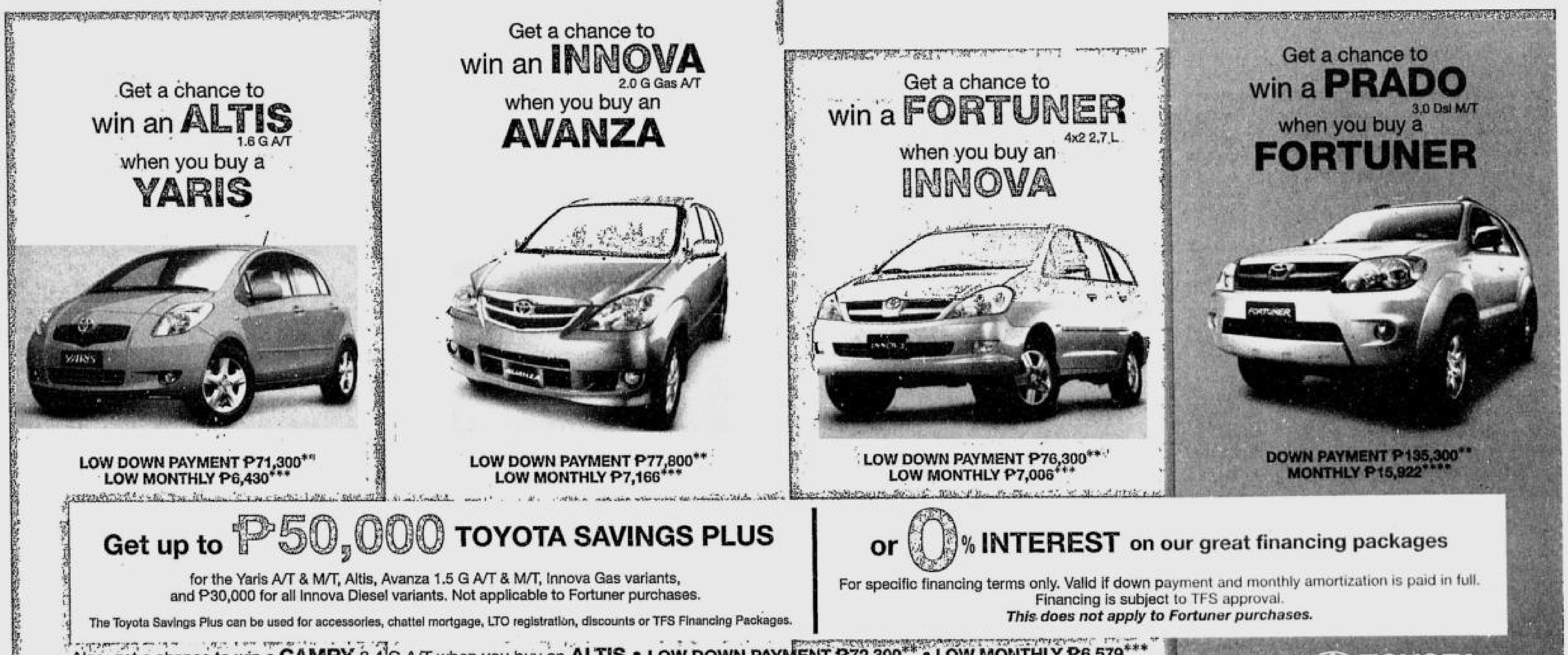
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See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 5840 Series of 2007.
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The worst is over

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

THE OWNER OF THE PENINSULA hotel wrote a one-word message to the President for all the damage done. It simply said "TANKS." Actually, it wasn't a tank that rammed the entrance but an armored personnel carrier accompanied by two typhoid carriers. Throwing tear gas bombs into the lobby blacked out the electric and the managers had to switch to gastric. It ruined the 100-point rally and won't do the tourist industry much good.

A lot of readers remember that in another newspaper, I used to write about alternative medicines so I still receive a lot of queries. As I am not qualified to answer some of them, I passed them on to my two doctor friends and here are their replies:

Q. I hear that cardiovascular exercise can prolong your life. Is this true?

A. Your heart is only good for so many beats so don't waste them on exercise. Speeding up your heart will not make you live longer. That is like saying you can extend the life of your car by driving faster. Take a nap.

Q. Should I cut down on meat and eat more fruit and vegetable?

A. What does a cow eat? Grass and corn and these are vegetables. So, a steak is an efficient method of delivering vegetables to your system.

Q. How can I calculate my body-fat ratio?

A. If you have one body plus fat, the ratio is one to one.

Q. Aren't fried food bad for you?

A. Food is fried in vegetable oil. How can vegetables be bad for you?

Q. Will sit-ups make my tummy smaller and firmer?

A. When you exercise a muscle, it gets bigger. You should only do sit-ups if you want a bigger stomach.

Q. Is swimming good for your figure?

A. If swimming is good for your figure, then explain the shape of whales.

Thank you doctors for enlightening us. A caring client who imports medical equipment sent me a tense machine and a corset, corset helps support my back, which is getting better. I am still withdrawing from the 200-meter hurdles next year in Beijing.

* * *

It has been another volatile market but both Chair Bernanke and the vice chair of the FED hinted that more interest-rate cuts would be needed to bolster the economy. Bernanke expects consumer spending to grow but said that consumers will become more cautious as they try to cope with all the stresses. "The odds have grown that the country could enter a recession. A sharp cutback in consumer spending could send the economy into a tailspin. Against this backdrop. FED policymakers will need to be exceptionally alert and flexible." This statement virtually guarantees further interest cuts, hence the euphoria on Wall Street and elsewhere.

In the third quarter, GDP rose by 4.9 percent but in the last quarter, GDP is expected to fall to 1.5 percent or less. Vice Chair Kohn was even more pessimistic and pointed to turbulence and the worsening problems in housing and in credit markets. There was a sharp rise in jobless claims last week and the number of people drawing unemployment benefits rose to a two-year high. His remarks sent the Dow up 564 points in two days and it has been rising ever since. He said the FED must be "nimble, flexible and pragmatic."

On the good side, consumer spending grew at 0.2 percent last month and post-Thanksgiving sales were up 6.4 percent mainly because of deeply-discounted bargains. All eyes will be on Christmas sales, which might be helped by a fall in oil prices from almost $100 a barrel to just under $90. The weak dollar stimulated US exports and international companies with large overseas sales recorded good results and led the index upwards. Inflation has risen from 2.4 percent to 2.9 percent but the core deflator (excluding food and energy) remains unchanged at 1.8 percent. Inflation is a restraining factor against cutting rates, which is why the FED is trying to do a balancing act while walking a tightrope.

China's reserves, the world's largest, are almost $1.5 trillion. Prime Minister Jiabao appears to be more accommodative and said that China would allow market forces to exert more influence over the value of the yuan as the country moves to a fully convertible currency. "China will continue to perfect the exchange rate in a gradual, proactive and manageable manner, give a further role to the market in determining the exchange rate, and will bring flexibility to the currency with a view to enabling capital account convertibility." The EU trade deficit with China has increased 30 percent to $251 billion and trade tensions have sharpened in recent months as the yuan has fallen sharply against the strong euro.

China wants domestic consumption to play a bigger role in economic growth and place less reliance on exports. China is aware of the tensions with the US and the EU but allowing the yuan to appreciate gradually is not in response to this, it also has benefits to China to help slow down its growth to a sustainable rate rather than risk overheating. China has barrier-free access to the EU and must reciprocate.

Last Friday, the Phisix jumped 100 points at the opening and after a month of continuous foreign selling averaging P500 million a day, they suddenly became net buyers of P800 million. Yesterday, they were again net sellers of P400 million. The market should resume its uptrend and as usual, the newsletter shows foreign activity, stock by stock. I was disappointed that after a 7.5-percent GDP growth in the election quarter, the third quarter GDP growth fell to 6.6 percent, less than the 6.8 percent expected by analysts. To date, government spending has increased 8.3 percent; agricultural production, 5.6 percent, and services, 7.2 percent. However, exports dropped 7.5 percent and this might drag on through the fourth quarter. We need the bidding for Transco to go well and I have composed a PSALM.

Typhoon Mina was heading for Bicol but got lost and ended up in Ilocos (naughty). The weather station has changed its name to the whether station. Typhoon Hagibis entered the country on Friday but was turned away as its passport had expired.

In company news, BHP has made a bid for RTZ, which was promptly rejected. The Phisix appears to have bottomed and in an 11-page study with eight recommendations, our research department projects the index to reach 5,000 in 2008. Clients should have a copy.

I miss readers' letters so you can reach me at mrbearbull @hotmail.com but do not ask advice on stocks or IPOs as this is the function of your broker.

ALI to start P2.31-B retail, BPO venture in Mindanao

Joint venture with land owners formed

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

PROPERTY GIANT AYALA LAND INC. (ALI) is embarking on a P2.31-billion mixed-use project in Davao City, its first retail and business process outsourcing venture in Mindanao.

In a disclosure to the stock exchange, ALI senior vice president Jaime E. Ysmael said the company had entered into a joint venture agreement with landowners Anflo Management & Investment Corp., Pioneer Trading & Supply Co. Inc. and Davao Motor Sales Co. to develop the nine-hectare property in Bajada, Davao City for a mixed-use development with retail and business process outsourcing (BPO) facilities.

Ysmael said 40,000 square meters of the property was earmarked for retail development, while another 20,000 sq. m. would be for BPO development.

The project was estimated to cost P2.31 billion, with ALI's equity investment in the project equivalent to 67 percent.

This venture follows a residential development project in Cagayan de Oro, called Alegria Hills.

Alegria Hills is a 53-hectare high-end residential subdivision project which is 10 minutes away from Limketkai Mall and the major business district in the area.

In the meantime, the company said that for the first nine months of the year, it had spent P10.7 billion for project and capital expenditures. This was 35 percent more than the P7.9 billion spent in the same period last year and is already 66 percent of the 2007 budget of P16.2 billion.

Residential development projects accounted for the largest share of ALI's capex at P5.4 billion, followed by shopping centers, 32 percent or P3.4 billion, mostly spent for the TriNoma mall in Quezon City.

In terms of office developments, ALI said development at its UP North Science and Technology Park in Quezon City was on schedule.

The first two buildings are due for completion in the fourth quarter of 2007, while the remaining buildings are expected to be finished by the second quarter of 2008.

For its Dela Rosa E-Services building in Makati, about half of the 47,000-sq. m. gross leasable area had been taken up by an anchor tenant.

Groundbreaking of the Nuvali Technopod Building 1 in its Nuvali project in Laguna was held last September, which may be completed by April 2008.

Other BPO buildings targeted for completion in 2008 are the San Lazaro Building 1 in Manila, and Glorietta 5 in Makati.

ALI earlier inked a joint venture with Manila Jockey Club Inc. (MJCI) for a two-tower BPO office development in the former San Lazaro Racetrack property in Sta. Cruz, Manila. This BPO office complex will sit on a 1.1 hectare property along Felix Huertas Street adjacent to the SM San Lazaro Mall and will form part of an Ayala Land mixed-use, fully integrated development in the area, which will comprise of retail, residential and commercial areas.

CURRENCIES

December 3, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.683293	1.000000	42.7590
Japan	Yen	0.006148	0.008997	0.3847
United Kingdom	Pound	1.406081	2.057800	87.9895
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.087749	0.128421	5.4912
Switzerland	Franc	0.603883	0.883783	37.7897
Canada	Dollar	0.683362	1.000100	42.7633
Singapore	Dollar	0.471986	0.690751	29.5358
Australia	Dollar	0.605006	0.885426	37.8599
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.823818	2.669158	114.1305
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.184126	0.269469	11.5222
Brunei	Dollar	0.470361	0.688373	29.4341
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000073	0.000107	0.0046
Thailand	Baht	0.022315	0.032658	1.3964
UAE	Dirham	0.186937	0.273583	11.6981
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.463500	62.5778
Korea	Won	0.000742	0.001086	0.0464
China	Yuan**	0.092337	0.135135	5.7782
Denmark	Kroner	0.134095	0.196248	8.3914
India	Rupee	0.017259	0.025259	1.0800
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.203240	0.297442	12.7183
New Zealand	Dollar	0.523958	0.766812	32.7881
Sweden	Kroner	0.107064	0.156688	6.6998
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021185	0.031004	1.3257

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Nov. 30, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.

** Asian time closing rate as of Nov. 30, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of December 3, 2007)

52-WKS HIGH	52-WKS LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.8	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.3	17,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	58	60	58	58.5	2,571,400
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	63	63.5	62.5	63	5,808,000
748	544	China Banking Corp.	665	680	665	680	1,570
23.5	14	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	350,000
75.5	47.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company	56	57.5	56	56.5	4,555,400
65.5	39	Philippine National Bank	45	47	45	45	62,900
68	46	Philippine Savings Bank	60.5	60.5	60.5	60.5	2,000
39.57	20	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	24.75	25.5	24.5	24.5	988,800
90	63	Security Bank Corp.	71	71	71	71	232,200
66	42	Union Bank of the Philippines	44.5	45	44.5	44.5	359,700
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.92	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	70,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.94	1.96	758,000
16.25	4.6	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	11.25	12	11.25	11.75	1,551,300
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	30,000
42.5	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	1,000
5.9	4.8	I-Remit Inc.	5	5	4.95	4.95	368,000
1,970.00	1,580.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,720.00	1,750.00	1,720.00	1,720.00	540
5	2.7	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3	3.15	3	3.05	1,516,000
1,390.00	260	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,050.00	1,085.00	1,050.00	1,075.00	12,770
2,500.00	1,970.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,225.00	2,225.00	2,225.00	2,225.00	10
1.94	1.3	Wantage Corp.	1.5	1.54	1.5	1.5	816,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp	5.1	5.3	5.1	5.1	2,571,000
0.57	0.22	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	250,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	58	59	58	59	3,483,600
92	51.5	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	64	68	64	67	1,243,700
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Company Inc.	16.75	16.75	16.5	16.75	2,389,600
105.45	27.73	Manila Electric Company	75	77	75	75.5	2,275,000
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.9	7.2	6.9	7.1	30,666,000
7.4	3.95	Petron Corp.	6	6.2	5.9	6	26,604,000
14.75	6.4	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	8,000
2.04	0.91	Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp.	1.4	1.48	1.38	1.42	8,433,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.4	Alaska Milk Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	66,000
2.32	1.48	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.56	1.56	1.52	1.52	700,000
28.5	20	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	222,000
61	39.5	Jollibee Foods Corp.	50	52	50	51.5	2,382,000
9.1	5.7	Pancake House Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	3,000
3.15	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	292,000
80	42.5	San Miguel Corp. "A"	51.5	53	50.5	50.5	223,400
88	43	San Miguel Corp. "B"	53.5	53.5	49.5	50.5	3,459,900
0.66	0.33	Swift Foods Inc.	0.43	0.43	0.42	0.42	400,000
6.5	3	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	6,000
20.75	13.5	Universal Robina Corp.	14	14.75	14	14.75	1,450,300
0.55	0.24	Vitarich Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	110,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.65	EEI Corp.	4.6	4.8	4.6	4.6	1,251,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.9	8	7.9	7.9	1,895,000
7	3.65	Republic Cement Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	256,000
2	0.81	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1	1.04	1	1.04	3,790,000
23	1.7	TKC Steel Corp.	8.9	9.3	8.9	8.9	1,051,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.15	4.25	4.15	4.2	212,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.36	2,810,000
9	6.2	Splash Corp.	6.6	6.8	6.4	6.4	1,119,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
39	18.75	ABS-CBN Hldg Corp. - Phil. Deposit Receipts	34	34.5	34	34	51,700
3.9	2.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	33,000
0.185	0.055	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.125	0.115	0.12	68,490,000
1.28	0.29	APC Group Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.59	0.62	180,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.5	2.65	2.5	2.55	22,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	3,000,000
9.7	5.8	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.9	7	6.9	6.9	803,000
0.021	0.0095	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.014	42,200,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.6	3,228,000
1.38	0.59	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.72	190,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.48	2.48	2.44	2.44	416,000
16	4.5	Atok-Big Wedge Company Inc. "A"	11	11	11	11	200
645	400	Ayala Corp.	560	575	560	565	978,700
5.8	1.64	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.9	4.05	3.9	3.95	2,607,000
12	5.1	DMCI Holdings Inc.	10	10.5	10	10	627,000
8	3.25	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.5	255,000
14.5	8.9	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	10	10.25	10	10.25	1,857,000
15.25	1.42	Lodestar Investment Hldgs Corp.	11.5	15.25	11.5	15.25	120,000
0.8	0.23	MEDCO Holdings Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	220,000
11.5	1.5	Minerales Industrias Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.3	1,813,000
8.5	3	PAL Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	32,000
0.28	0.016	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.245	0.27	0.245	0.26	867,860,000
0.75	0.19	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.48	0.52	0.48	0.5	6,020,000
2.1	1.3	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.76	1.8	1.76	1.8	16,000
452.5	268.53	SM Investments Corp.	342.5	352.5	340	342.5	485,440
2.1	1.08	Seafront Resources Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	6,000
0.73	0.14	Sinophil Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	250,000
2	0.92	South China Resources Inc.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	5,000
0.75	0.12	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	440,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Company Inc.	1.5	1.52	1.5	1.52	691,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings, Inc	7.3	7.4	7.1	7.4	48,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	15.25	15.75	15.25	15.75	21,762,500
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.14	1.2	1.14	1.2	377,000
4.7	3.05	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	3,000
3.83	1.9	City and Land Developers Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	20,000
0.86	0.39	Crown Equities Inc	0.59	0.62	0.59	0.6	130,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.37	0.38	10,380,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.74	0.72	0.72	10,900,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	2,000
0.47	0.0575	Ever Gotesco Res. and Hold'gs Inc.	0.23	0.24	0.23	0.24	1,080,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1	1.04	1	1.04	13,730,000
2.44	1.3	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.56	1.58	1.46	1.46	148,128,000
3.3	2.42	Highlands Prime Inc.	2.7	2.95	2.65	2.65	115,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.5	0.52	0.5	0.52	160,000
4.6	2.05	Megaworld Corp.	4	4.1	4	4	57,595,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.85	470,000
5.2	2.2	Metro Pacific Investments Corp. - Warrants	2.6	2.6	2.55	2.6	554,000
0.7	0.13	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.31	0.35	0.31	0.35	1,470,000
0.86	0.32	Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	100,000
9.2	1.7	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4,000
23	14.5	Robinson Land Corp.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	12,802,800
5.9	1.93	SM Development Corp.	3.95	4	3.95	4	27,000
13.5	7.78	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.5	12,546,700
3.25	1.5	Shang Properties Inc.	2.22	2.22	2.2	2.2	101,000
4.5	0.38	Sta. Lucia Land Inc.	1.98	2	1.94	1.94	906,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1,250,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	5	5.1	4.9	5.1	22,417,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	34	34.5	34	34	12,800
12	7.6	GMA Holdings Inc	7.9	8.2	7.9	8	889,000
11.75	7.5	GMA Network Inc.	7.9	8	7.8	7.9	210,000
1.03	0.81	Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp.	1	1	1	1	10,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc	1.32	1.34	1.32	1.34	333,000
1,750.00	1,180.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,525.00	1,565.00	1,525.00	1,560.00	117,450
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,100.00	3,105.00	3,035.00	3,060.00	177,300
8.1	5.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7.1	7.1	7	7	269,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.205	0.195	0.205	7,140,000
15.5	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	13.5	13.5	12.5	12.75	1,721,100
11.5	3.25	IPVG Corp.	8	8.8	8	8.6	7,800,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.038	0.038	0.037	0.038	23,900,000
29.5	8.5	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	16	16	16	16	7,000
5	1.62	Information Capital Tech. Ventures Inc.	3.1	3.2	3	3.2	155,000
2.9	1.1	Ionics Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	20,000
0.32	0.05	Island Information and Technology Inc.	0.175	0.18	0.175	0.18	4,900,000
0.0725	0.03	Philweb Corp.	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.048	12,600,000
5.8	1.64	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc	2.65	2.65	2.55	2.55	578,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	12,000
49	18.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	47	49	47	47.5	12,596,100
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	7,000
2.04	1.12	Lorenzo Shipping Corp	1.5	1.8	1.5	1.8	799,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	50,000
1.18	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Prod'n Inc.	0.98	1.18	0.98	1.12	11,380,000
1.2	0.55	Waterfront Philippines Inc	0.85	0.91	0.85	0.87	5,310,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
41	6.6	JTH Davies Holdings Inc.	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	400
6	2.04	Macroasia Corp.	4.7	4.8	4.7	4.8	108,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.25	11.25	11.25	11.25	2,000
30	6.2	Paxys Inc.	7	7	6.7	6.7	734,000
472.5	390	eTelecare Global Solutions Inc	435	435	420	425	5,360
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	22,000,000
7.2	3.6	Apex Mining Company Inc. "A"	6.5	7	6.5	6.7	986,000
7.4	3.85	Apex Mining Company Inc. "B"	6.9	7.2	6.9	7.1	505,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	12.75	13.25	12.75	13.25	490,400
15.75	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	13	15.75	12	15.25	1,017,700
12.75	1.96	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	8.9	9.5	8.7	9.5	208,000
3.1	0.6	GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc.	1.9	1.92	1.88	1.88	28,050,000
0.56	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.51	0.54	0.5	0.53	347,000,000
0.61	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.55	0.58	0.54	0.58	135,720,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.029	0.03	0.028	0.03	590,000,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.032	0.033	0.032	0.033	70,200,000
30	3.6	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	20.5	20.5	20	20.25	685,100
0.021	0.0088	Omico Corp.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.013	403,000,000
0.015	0.007	Omico Corp. - Warrants	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	35,000,000
11.25	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	9.6	9.9	9.6	9.9	4,100,000
49.5	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	46	46	46	46	149,600
1.36	0.55	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	30,000
1.8	0.85	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.12	1,250,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	220,000
0.029	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "A"	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.023	274,100,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. "B"	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	87,000,000
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10	10	10	10	2,000
0.032	0.0095	The Philodrill Corp.	0.028	0.029	0.027	0.027	187,900,000

AVERAGES				VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	879.24	UP	16.26	20,072,890	879,525,725.00
Industrial	4,269.07	UP	116.38	99,689,100	1,285,938,625.00
Holding Firms	2,024.41	UP	41.99	1,003,154,340	1,032,794,285.00
Property	1,600.58	UP	29.82	317,216,000	1,316,048,160.00
Service	1,853.98	DOWN	10.59	90,799,510	1,455,079,080.00
Mining & Oil	8,567.33	UP	281.07	2,154,613,800	448,473,940.00
All Shares Index	2,207.46	UP	34.89		
PSEI	3,626.88	UP	48.33		
		GRAND TOTALS		3,685,545,640	6,417,859,815.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

OBITUARIES

REX BARRIDO BUENSUCESO

Born to Everlasting Life
on November 29, 2007 at the age of 60.

His bereaved wife **Azucena "Babes"**; children **Sharon, Ryan, Kristine** and **Sean**; brothers **Bob, Ike** and **Berlin**; sisters **Barbara Ladrido** and **Tess Matsui**; mother-in-law **Nelly M. Miravalles**; brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, cousins, other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Sanctuarium, (Chapel Cattleya) Araneta corner Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, December 05, 2007 at 10:30 a.m., Heritage Park-Global City, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass at the Sanctuarium.

The partners, associates and staff of
GUERRERO & ACERON LAW OFFICES
condole with the family of

REDENDOR N. GUERRERO

Founding Partner and former Managing Partner

who died in the morning of November 30, 2007
at the age of thirty-eight.

His remains lie in state at the UP Chapel
where masses will be offered in the evenings at 8:00 p.m.
until December 8, 2007.

Interment will be at Heaven's Garden, Loakan, Baguio City
on December 9, 2007 at 11:00 a.m.

MIGUEL BORJA SANTOS

"IGUE"

Widow of the late
Victoria Dayrit Santos
Peacefully joined his Creator
on
December 2, 2007 at the age of 88.

His bereaved children **Charito & Jojo Gavino, Manny, Tessie & Ding Castor, Alice Bernardo, Ike (†), Lulu & Butch Flores**, Grandchildren, great-grandchildren, together with his sisters **Corazon, Lourdes, Herminia,** and **Angelina** request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of Grace Columbary & Mortuary Haven, 11th Ave., cor. 2nd St., Grace Park Caloocan City, Benjamin de Jesus Chapel.

Interment will be on Thursday, December 6, 2007 after the 2:00 P.M. Mass at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Death Notice

ISABEL ESPIRITU VALENZUELA
Aug. 4, 1916 - Dec. 3, 2007

Her body lies at Loreto Church, Bustillos, Sampaloc, Manila

Interment will be on Dec. 8, 8 a.m. at Manila Memorial, Parañaque City.

The Missionary Sisters
Servants of the Holy Spirit
announce the death of

SISTER ANITA, S.Sp.S.

(PRISCILA B. AGUSTINES)

on December 3, 2007 at the age of 90
at the Convent of the Holy Spirit, Quezon City.

Mass of the Resurrection will be offered on
Wednesday, December 5, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.
at the Convent of the Holy Spirit,
8 Poinsettia Road, Quezon City.

Interment will follow at the Christ the King Cemetery,
E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City.

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want"

WIVINA "WEB" OÑATE-ARMEÑA

December 17, 1925 – December 2, 2007

Her loving sisters, **Nancy, Mary** and **Charito**; nieces & nephews; and other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel A, Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, Quezon City. Interment will be on December 5 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at the CTK Columbary.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.

Tel. Nos. Quezon City : 712-3001 • 743-6502
Manila : 711-6931 to 35

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF VIEWING	INTERMENT/CREMATION DATE & TIME	INTERMENT/CREMATION PLACE
JOSEPHINE B. RAGON	Chapel 15	To be announced later	To be announced later
JUANITO V. EDUARTE	Superior	Dec. 8, 2007 8:00 AM	Himlayang Pilipino
JULIANA UMIPIG	Imperial Classic	Dec. 4, 2007 2:00 PM	Eternal Garden

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OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

CLASSIFIEDS

NORTHRAIL

North Luzon Railways Corporation

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The North Luzon Railways Corporation (NorthRail) invites interested Security Agencies to submit Application for Eligibility and to Bid, for its Security Services requirement.

Prospective Bidders must have continuous services in the security/detective agency operations business for at least five (5) consecutive years. The Approved Budget for the Contract is Pesos: Eighteen Million Four Hundred Seventy Two Thousand Three Hundred Forty Four (PhP 18,472,344.00).

Applications for Eligibility and Bid Proposals (technical and financial) shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria. All bids shall be evaluated based on the Agency's offer for the contract under bidding and shall be subject to detailed evaluation, and to Post-qualification before an award is made. Bid prices submitted lighter than the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) or lower than the PADPAO rate per security guard shall be rejected outright.

For those interested, Application for Eligibility and Bid Documents will be available for issuance from December 4 to December 12, 2007 upon submission of a Letter of Intent addressed to the Chairperson of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), and payment of a non-refundable fee of Pesos: Six Thousand Five Hundred (PhP 6,500.00), at the NorthRail Office, 2nd Floor, Bonifacio Technology Center Building, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila. Duly accomplished Application for Eligibility, as well as Technical and Cost Proposals shall be submitted on or before 12:00 noon of 27 December 2007, at the address mentioned above. Opening of Eligibility Documents and Bid Documents will be at 1:00 p.m. of the same date. All interested Bidders are required to attend the Pre-Bid Conference to be held on 14 December 2007, 10:00 a.m. at the NorthRail Office 2nd Floor, Bonifacio Technology Center Building, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila.

All particulars relative to the eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the pertinent provision of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Should you need any further information or clarification regarding the Project, you may get in touch with Ms. Alma Theresa T. Arizala, our BAC Secretariat at tel. 8563808 and Engr. Fermin M. Rulona, Jr. at 8944184.

NorthRail reserves the right to reject or accept any applications; and to annul or cancel the entire process, or reject all applications, as it may deem proper without incurring any liability to the affected applicants.

(Sgd.) **GLORIA GEORGINA DJ JOTA**
Chairperson, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Nov. 29 & Dec. 4, 2007)

More Classifieds on pages

James Hao-Zamcelco A18
Advanced Science and Technology Institute A18
DOLE-NCR A19
Cherub Manpower B2

Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(ZAMCELCO)
Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO BID

The Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMCELCO) at Putik, this City per requisite under Board Policies on Pre-Qualifications, and Bids and Awards, invites ALL interested Bidders/Suppliers to bid for the supply of the following electrical materials/equipment/items, to wit:

No	Quantity	Unit	Item Description
1	5	PCS	DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER BRAND : LG, PHILEC OR ANY EQUIVALENT KVA : 50 TYPE : POLE CONVENTIONAL, DOUBLE BUSHING (BRAND NEW) AGENCY PRICE: P 82,000.00/unit

You may secure the Pre-qualification Requirements from the office of the Finance Department, ZAMCELCO Complex in Putik, this city anytime during office hours and submit the same upon completion of all requirements thereof.

Submission of the Pre-qualification Requirements shall not be later than 5:00 pm of December 7, 2007 and no documents appertaining thereto, shall be accepted thereafter.

All applicants will be duly notified as to the results of the pre-qualification eligibility process. Only those who are pre-qualified will be allowed to participate in the bidding. A post-qualification may be conducted accordingly hereafter.

Bidding will be conducted on **December 18, 2007.**

Sealed bid in duplicate copies should be submitted to the Committee on Bids and Awards at the Office of the Finance Department at the above-mentioned address on or before 2:00 p.m. of **December 18, 2007.** Five percent (5%) Bidder's Bond is required as a matter of policy.

The right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the coop is hereby reserved as an absolute prerogative of ZAMCELCO.

(Sgd.) **REINERIO R. RAMOS**
General Manager

(PDI--December 3 & 4, 2007)

Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(ZAMCELCO)
Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO BID

The Zamboanga City Electric Cooperative, Inc. (ZAMCELCO) at Putik, this City per requisite under Board Policies on Pre-Qualifications, and Bids and Awards, invites ALL interested Bidders/Suppliers to bid for the supply of the following electrical materials/equipment/items, to wit:

No	Quantity	Unit	Item Description
1	3	PCS	DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMER BRAND : LG KVA : 100 TYPE : POLE CONVENTIONAL, DOUBLE BUSHING (BRAND NEW) AGENCY PRICE: P 128,000.00/unit

You may secure the Pre-qualification Requirements from the office of the Finance Department, ZAMCELCO Complex in Putik, this city anytime during office hours and submit the same upon completion of all requirements thereof.

Submission of the Pre-qualification Requirements shall not be later than 5:00 pm of December 7, 2007 and no documents appertaining thereto, shall be accepted thereafter.

All applicants will be duly notified as to the results of the pre-qualification eligibility process. Only those who are pre-qualified will be allowed to participate in the bidding. A post-qualification may be conducted accordingly hereafter.

Bidding will be conducted on **December 18, 2007.**

Sealed bid in duplicate copies should be submitted to the Committee on Bids and Awards at the Office of the Finance Department at the above-mentioned address on or before 2:00 p.m. of **December 18, 2007.** Five percent (5%) Bidder's Bond is required as a matter of policy.

The right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, or to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the coop is hereby reserved as an absolute prerogative of ZAMCELCO.

(Sgd.) **REINERIO R. RAMOS**
General Manager

(PDI--December 3 & 4, 2007)

You can now checkout more jobs from JobMarket Libre everyday!

PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Baguio Economic Zone, Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. Nos. 447-3331; 447-3683; 447-3328; 447-3329; 447-3333; 447-1155
Telefax: 447-3330; 447-4154

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority – Baguio City Economic Zone, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Security Services' Contract for the Baguio City Economic Zone
Location : BCEZ, Loakan Road, Baguio City
Approved Budget for the Contract : P 4,569,096.78
Contract Duration : One Year

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project, within the last 3 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. Bids received in excess of the ABC will be automatically rejected.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	December 12-18, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	December 18, 2007, 9:00 AM
3. Submission of Bids	January 8, 2008, 9:00 AM
4. Opening of Bids	January 8, 2008, 9:30 AM

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000.00). The method of payment will be cash basis only.

Bidders should not have any existing security services contract with any PEZA-BCEZ locators to avoid conflict of interest.

In addition, bidders must have filed their latest annual income and business tax returns (VAT) and/or Percentage Tax) covering six (6) months immediately prior to the Submission of bids via the Electronic Filing and Payment System (eFPS) of the BIR.

The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process and assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **ENGR. MODESTO L. AGYAO, JR.**
BAC Chairman

(PDI – December 4, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
BOARD OF INVESTMENTS

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **ARCTURA CORPORATION** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New Export Producer of Oleochemical Products** on a **Non-Pioneer** Status with capacity of **25,832 MTPY** and with project/plant site located at **Opao, Mandaue City.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI – December 4, 2007)

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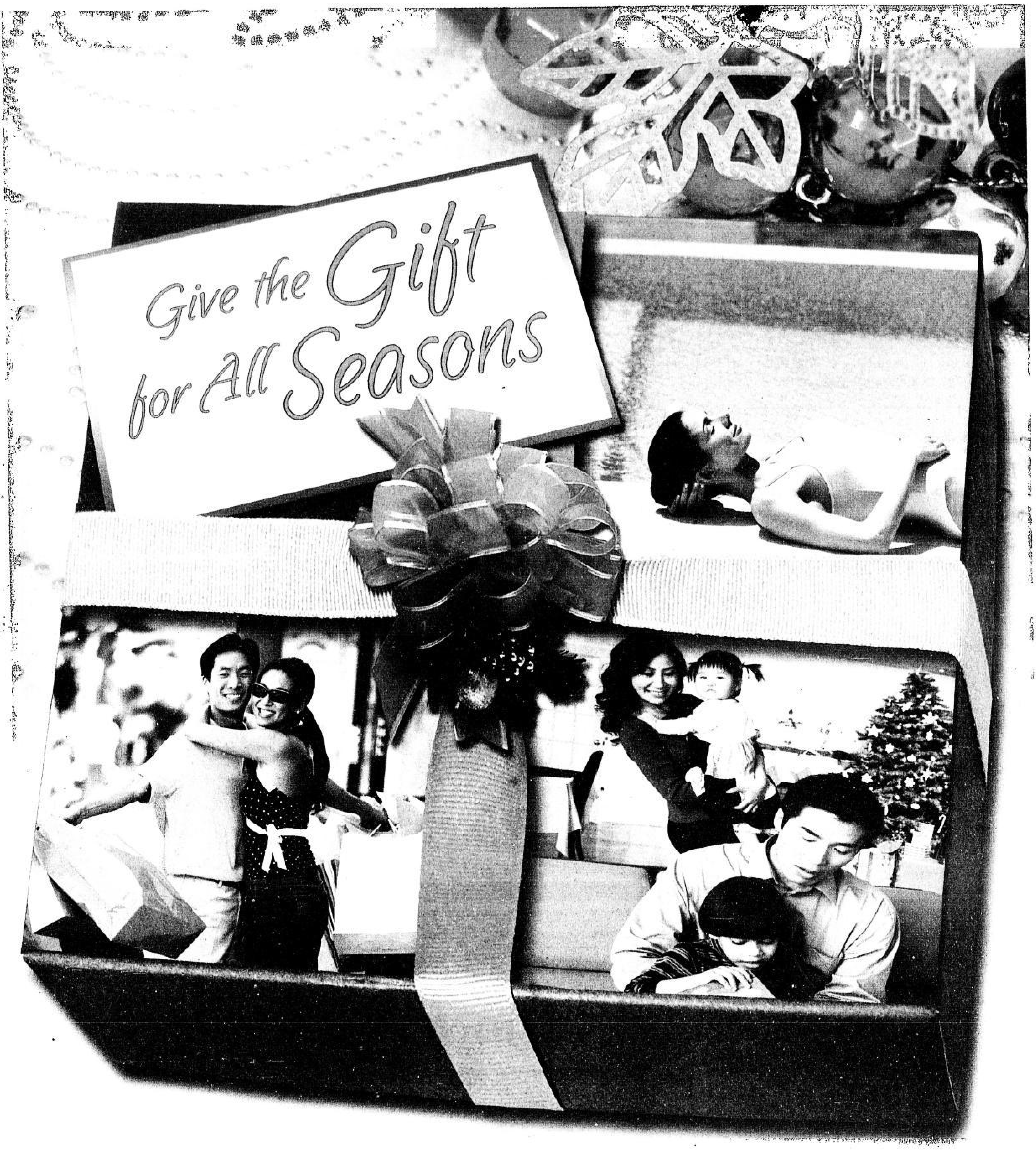
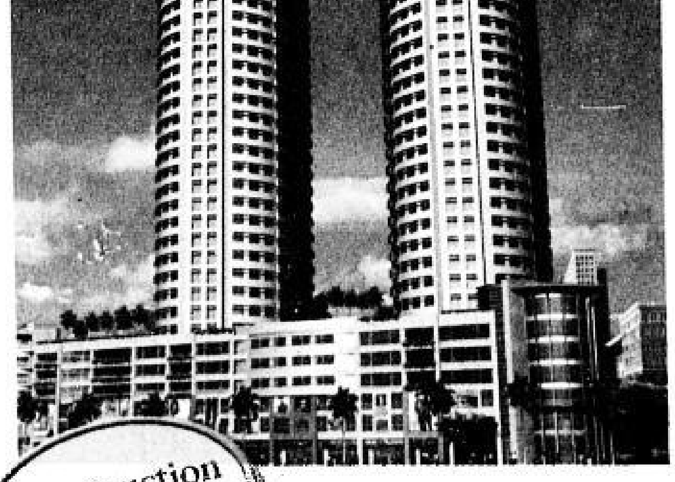

Give the Gift for All Seasons

CITYPLACE

PHASE 1

The New Face of Chinatown


Construction in full swing

Give your loved ones the gift of love and joy to share and to cherish, season after season. Cityplace.

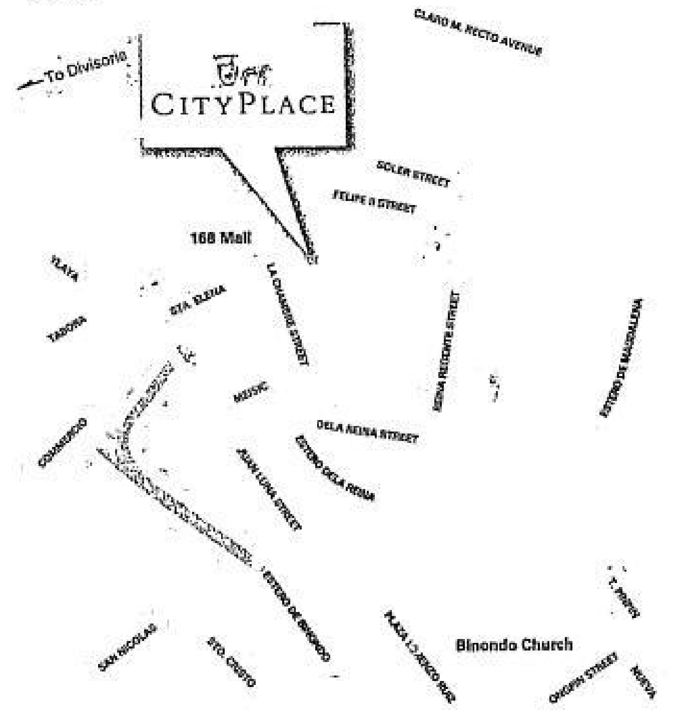
Raise your family in the lap of luxury in the heart of Chinatown. Choose from spacious two- to four-bedroom homes lavished with thoughtful touches. A bathtub in the master's bedroom. Panoramic views of Manila and its breathtaking sunset. An imposing lobby with four high-speed elevators. 24-hour security and privacy.

Relax and rejuvenate yourself in your own playground seven stories above Chinatown. Smell the flowers in a landscaped garden. Stroll along a trellised walkway. Go swimming while the kids have fun in the wading pool or playground. Enjoy a sauna in the gym or unwind in the game room. There's a day care center for kids and a business center for their parents, along with a clubhouse and function rooms.

Say goodbye to those long, stressful trips to the mall. At Cityplace, you're just an elevator ride away from a three-level shopping paradise. A few steps away, the Cityplace Richmonde Hotel is the place to do business with pleasure.

And the best of Chinatown are just a *calesa* ride away—from topnotch Chinese schools to the shops along Ongpin and the offices along Quintin Paredes. Also close by are Divisoria's bargain stores and Manila's University Belt and historical landmarks.

This season, give the gift that lasts—and lasts: Cityplace.


Tutuban
To Divisoria
CITYPLACE
CLARO M. RECTO AVENUE
SOLER STREET
FELIPE II STREET
168 Mall
PLAYA
TABORA
STA. ELENA
LA CHAMBRE STREET
REINA REGENTE STREET
ESTERO DE MAGDALENA
MUSIC
COMMERCIO
DELA REINA STREET
ESTERO DELA REINA
JUAN LUNA STREET
ESTERO DE BINONDO
T. PINPIN
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IN THIS ISSUE

Three letters that spell class / C2

LIFESTYLE
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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
sms feedback: inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

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INSIDE OUT
Cory Quirino

Glow this Christmas

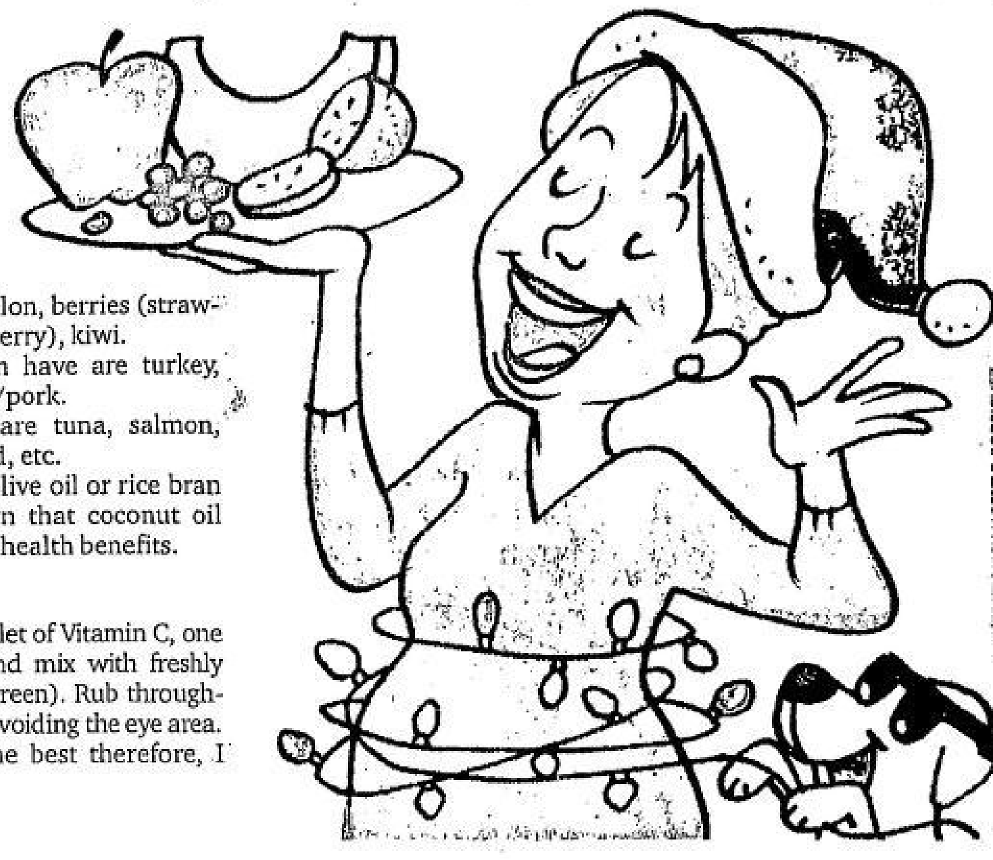


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

UNLOCK YOUR TRUE POTENTIAL TODAY. Release the radiant you that lies within.

Begin by adopting a new way of living. Its foundation should be a new way of seeing.

A second look

People habitually look at themselves in the mirror. It cannot be helped. If there is a mirror, you instinctively look.

The first time you look, the tendency is to simply check out the physical appearance—hair in place, necktie straight, make-up not over done, clothes well-pressed, etc.

When the first look is done and after going through a whole how-do-I-look checklist, you make a general sweep, right?

What if the second look has more depth, more intent than just looking at the physical?

Studies show that external changes only happen when you make internal changes. You have to do some internal housekeeping if you want the façade of your house to look good.

Keeping house

Weight loss, trimmed waistline, better complexion, etc. are all wonderful side effects of a healthy lifestyle.

Among the steps you can take to achieve these include inner cleansing, exercise, nutritious eating regimen, vitamin-mineral supplementation and a positive loving attitude.

Habits that are in direct conflict with your new health plan should be addressed.

If you have cravings you cannot seem to ignore, the objects of these cravings may need replacing, removing or managing.

They may be chocolates/sugar, salt, fatty meats, snack items like popcorn, chips and *chicharon* and other munchies, creamy/cheesy foods or alcohol.

Moderation is good. Bingeing is bad.

To-do list

- Eat less of everything except vegetables. The answer is not starvation or deprivation but moderation. You will soon feel the effects of cutting back on quantities because quality is what you will get.
- Start an exercise program. Brisk walking, spinning/biking or dancing, take your pick. But start today.
- Change your "there's always tomorrow attitude" to "there's only today." And, with this, you are well on your way.
- Replace the old with the new. By adopting a philosophy of newness, you will soon erase the old you, including old lifestyles, old views, old fears, old problems.
- Think young. When you see yourself as someone young, your outlook will become young as well.

Never more will you say to yourself "I'm too old for that." Deepak Chopra, M.D., repeatedly says in "Ageless Body Timeless Mind" that your mind's paradigm shifts once you say you will be young always. The attitude directly affects your body's mechanism, making it operate as it once did in your youth. So, think young to become young.

Go light

Here is a nutritious meal plan guaranteed to keep the waistline trim, according to Michael Perricone, M.D., in "The Wrinkle Cure."

Breakfast: two scrambled egg whites, 2-oz serving non-instant oatmeal, fresh strawberries

Lunch: 4-oz fish, fresh green salad with tomatoes, red bell pepper, onions, olive oil dressing, grilled salmon

Dinner: broiled chicken, fresh brocolli/cabbage, garbanzos beans

Snack: low-fat cottage cheese, one apple

Avoid if you can, for now, white rice/flour, pancakes, popcorn, potatoes (especially French fries), corn, peas and carrots as they elevate the blood pressure.

If you cannot avoid these, combine with complex carbohydrates like squash, green beans, eggplant, cauliflower and fruits such as apples, honeydew melon, berries (strawberries, blueberry, raspberry), kiwi.

Other meats you can have are turkey, chicken, lean beef/ham/pork.

For fish, alternates are tuna, salmon, snapper (*lapu-lapu*), cod, etc.

When in doubt, use olive oil or rice bran oil. Studies have shown that coconut oil and virgin coco oil have health benefits.

Holiday scrub

Use one capsule or tablet of Vitamin C, one capsule of Vitamin E and mix with freshly mashed apples (red or green). Rub throughout your body and face, avoiding the eye area.

Affirm: "I deserve the best therefore, I claim a new me."

Love and light!

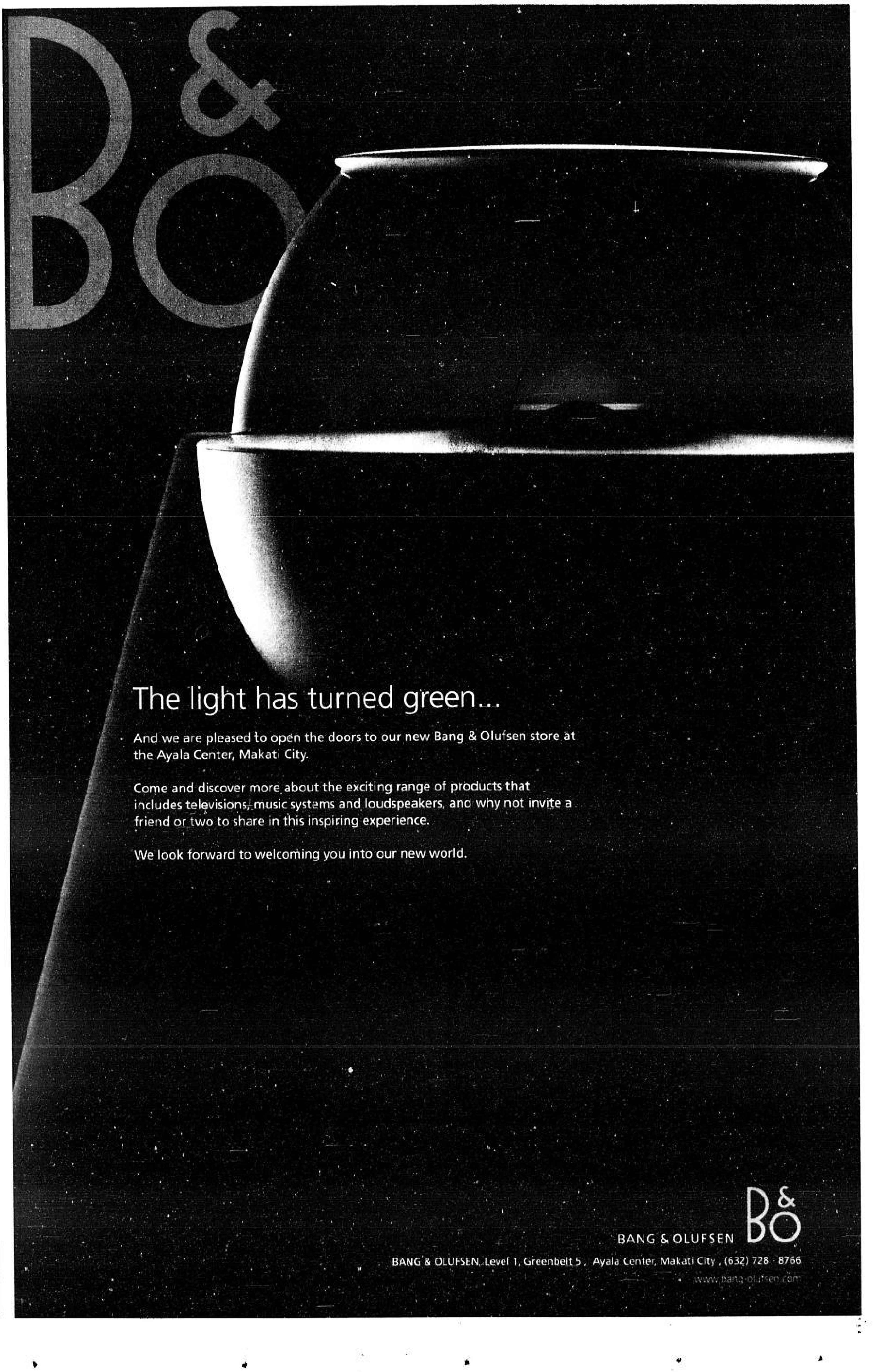
Pop art for gift boxes

HEALTHY OPTIONS' GIFT-GIVING theme this year draws inspiration from pop art icon Andy Warhol.

Romy Sia, managing director, said Healthy Options' gift boxes would even make ideal year-round presents for people of all ages, interests and tastes.

The gift boxes use the silkscreen image of a tattooed biker from the "Eat Good, Live Bad Longer" advertising campaign that are likely to be appreciated long after the holiday season.

They come in various sizes and psychedelic colors, in keeping with the season's festive mood. Healthy Options also has gift cards in P200, P500 and P1,000 denominations. Healthy Options has branches in major malls.


The light has turned green...

And we are pleased to open the doors to our new Bang & Olufsen store at the Ayala Center, Makati City.

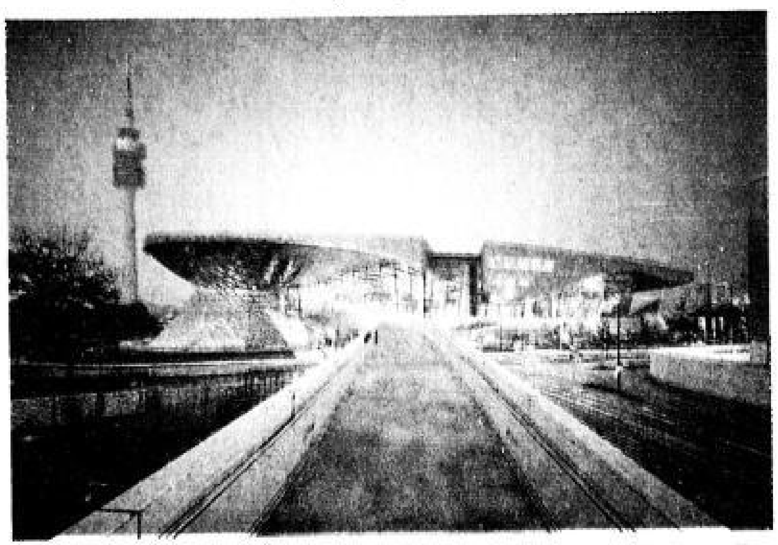
Come and discover more about the exciting range of products that includes televisions, music systems and loudspeakers, and why not invite a friend or two to share in this inspiring experience.

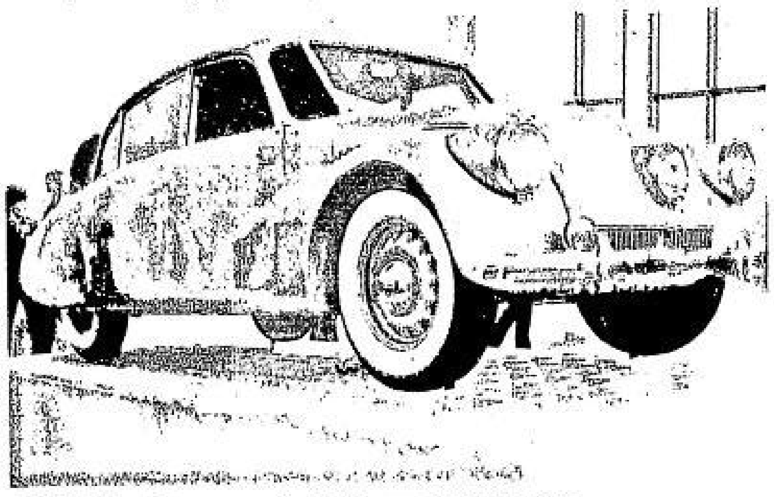
We look forward to welcoming you into our new world.

BANG & OLUFSEN

BANG & OLUFSEN, Level 1, Greenbelt 5, Ayala Center, Makati City, (632) 728 - 8766

www.bang-olufsen.com


SHOP, eat and enjoy before you pick up your BMW car and drive off.


ONE of the vintage cars inside the modern museum.

THE BIG TWO. Michael Kirsch, corporate affairs VP, Strategy Corp Messenges of BMW Group, and the brilliant architect of BMW Welt, professor Wolf D. Prix

DR. CORINNA Rösner, brilliant curator of Pinakothek modern museum

MOI in a Munich square

Three letters spell first-class products

OLET Manalang, Career Smart general manager, and Jet Bije, Hunter Douglas Phils. sales director

GIGI Lapira, Hunter Douglas Phils. president

PAULINO Garcia, Ricco Renzo International Consolidated Inc. chair

BRILLIANT Armin Raquel Santos, Bureau of Investments vice governor

Part 2

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

WE MOVED across the street from the BMW Welt to look at the new Production Mile at the BMW Plant, Munich.

We were amazed by the highest level of engineering and the true passion for the brand by the staff.

The one-hour tour of the awesome BMW plant was mind-blowing. And all these technologies in automobile production were just a street away from the gorgeous BMW Welt.

We went with total interest to the press shop, body shop, paint shop, engine production and all the way to the assembly line.

We also looked at the production of equipment and seats, as well as the testing of engine and speed when the car was fully assembled.

Truly awesome, dahlings.

That evening we had a great, relaxed dinner at a quaint but popular Italian restaurant close to the hotel, compliments of our friend and guardian angel, BMW's brilliant asset, Singapore-based **Michael T.H. Lim**, corporate affairs, Asia regional director. He excellently took care of us for four days.

We started our last day as BMW's invitees by visiting the BMW Group Designworks USA.

Giving us a special treat was the sophisticated, *tres* fashionable **Verena Kloor**, president of the company, no less, who happened to be in Munich although her home base is Los Angeles, California.

She personally gave us an insight into what her company was all about. At this year's international aircraft show of the National Business Aviation Association held in Atlanta, Georgia, United States, the BMW Group Designworks USA created quite a stir with its groundbreaking design of a medium-range aircraft.

It was built by one of the world's largest aircraft builders, the Brazilian company Embraer.

Designworks USA, based in Los Angeles, with offices in Munich and Singapore, operates as a subsidiary. It has a cross industry expertise in, take note, design strategy, design research, brand communication, colors and finish product development.

Their clients include tons of leading companies—from transportation to lifestyle industry, plus, plus.

After Designworks USA, we had a great lunch at the renowned Restaurant Lembach. Our last stop was the must-go to Pinakothek der Moderne, a mind-blowing modern museum.

You will certainly be amazed by the awesome collection of modern conceptualized objects from "all over Europe and hopefully India, Asia and Japan," said the amazing lady chief curator Dr. **Corinna Rösner**, as she showed us around.

Once the tour was over, all 580 invited journalists agreed on one thing—that BMW's three letters stood for a powerful brand and first-class products.

BMW cars are more than just a classy means of transportation. They are really the expression of the owner's personality, dahlings.

It was for us a truly wonderful experience to remember courtesy of our host, BMW.

Window fashions gallery

Après the bombardment of invites for openings or launching of products or new restos, it was a welcome breather to get invited to the opening of the latest window fashions gallery at Ricco Renzo Caffe and Galleries of Hunter Douglas, which just happens to be the world leader in window fashions, *palanggas*.

Welcoming the mob of invitees that included top architects, interior designers and art connoisseurs, was the *tres charmant* **Jim Tan**, Hunter Douglas regional director for Asia.

After all the socializing, drinking and digging into excellently prepared heavy cocktail food, Jim T. gave a short speech:

"Ricco Renzo has distinguished itself for successfully fusing art and business, very much the same way Hunter Douglas has successfully fused aesthetics and quality in its products. Ricco Renzo fits perfectly the partner profile that Hunter Douglas is looking for."

For its part, Ricco Renzo chair and president **Paulino Garcia Jr.** said, "We are honored to be its (Hunter Douglas) partner."

A raffle gave away such prizes as an awesome living room window fashion showcase from Hunter Douglas and paintings from Ricco Renzo, no less.

Moi learned that Hunter Douglas products were found in millions of homes and commercial buildings worldwide. It is the world market leader in window coverings and a major provider of architectural products, *palanggas*.

It has 21,000 employees in 168 offices.

Check out Hunter Douglas Window Fashions Gallery, *palanggas*, on the second floor of Ricco Renzo Caffe and Galleries. You will find its latest products, including the 3form Varia.

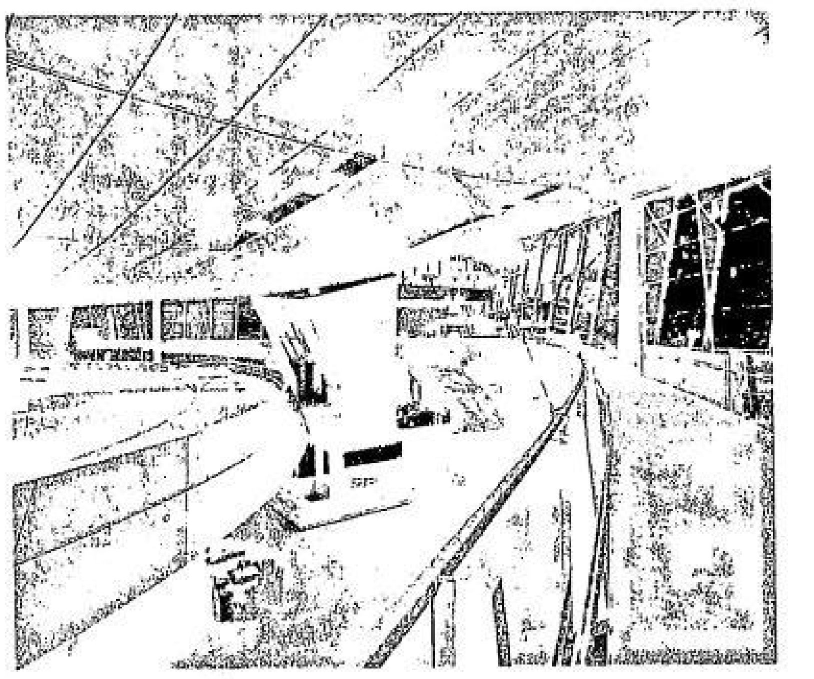
Basi Revolt

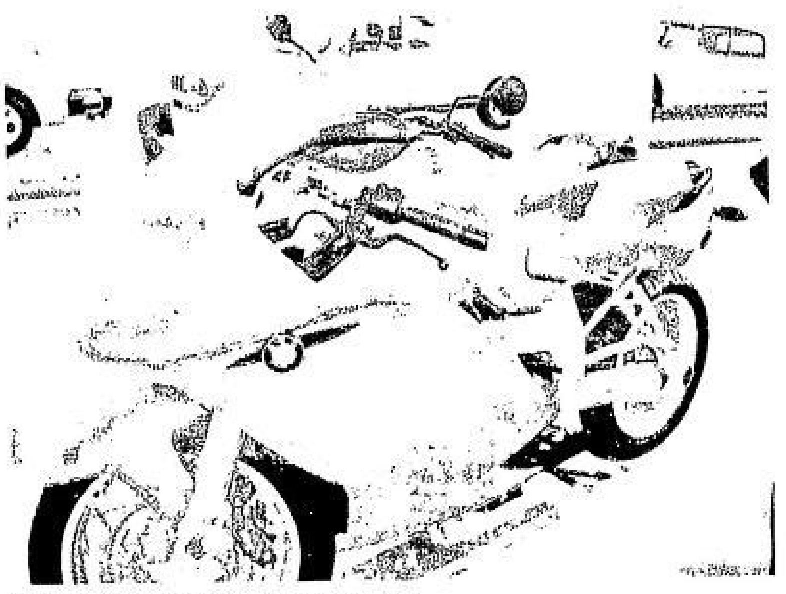
Everything is set for the grand celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Basi Revolt, *palanggas*.

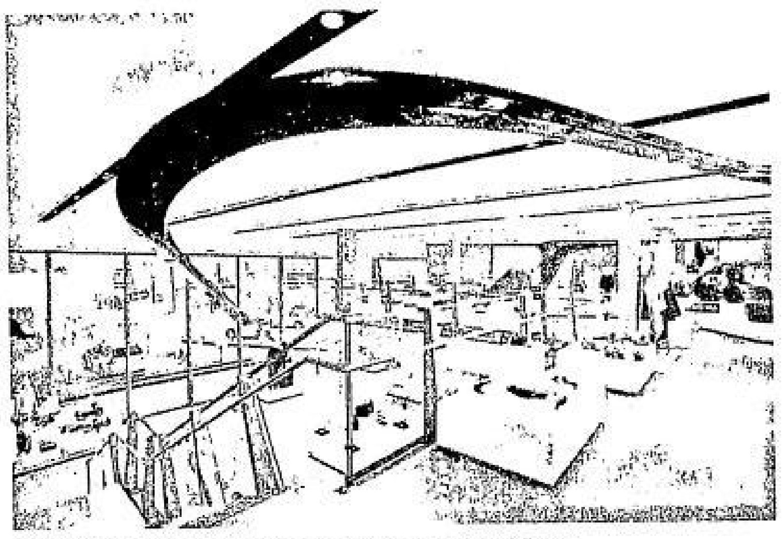
No less than the popular, articulate Rep. Ferdinand "Bongbong" R. Marcos Jr. is hosting this happening at 6 p.m., Dec. 6, at the Museum of the Filipino People, South Wing Gallery, Teodoro Valencia Circle, Rizal Park.

To know more about the historical event, dahlings, check out the fantastic work of **Esteban Villanueva**, a merchant and self-taught painter. He was commissioned in 1821 to chronicle the events of the revolt in "14 panels that retold the story of the revolt, from the formation of the contending forces to the defeat of the rebels."

On exhibit in the museum until Dec. 14, the work interacts with two large murals plus other works by **Roberto Feleo**, who was inspired by the Basi Revolt paintings, *palanggas*.


AVANT-GARDE driveway


VINTAGE leather BMW motorcycle


MINIMALIST design of the boutique's second floor

CONTRACTOR Jess Buenaventura and Kaye Nuguid, Ricco Renzo International manager

JIM TAN, regional director for Asia Window Fashions division, and woman of substance Reese Ferrer, Ricco Renzo International director

REP. Bongbong Marcos hosts the 200th anniversary of the Basi Revolt.

ERRATA

In one of the photos in Friday's column, Pepper Teehankee was inadvertently identified as an Indonesian journalist. The name of the freelance writer is Yong Shu Chiang, not Ong Shu Chiang. The caption should have read: "Farewell dinner with other journalists from Asia. Pepper Teehankee, an Indonesian journalist, freelance writer Yong Shu Chiang, Wealth Magazine Singapore editor Kannan Chandran, Michael Lim and *moi*."

In the same issue, the text should have read "Professor Wolf D. Prix (instead of Wolf D. Prix), the brain behind the architectural wonder that's the BMW Welt..."

INNER AWARENESS
Jaime Licauco

Beyond the secret Law of Attraction

Part I

EVERYONE WANTS to be in on a secret, no matter what it is. We want to feel we are in the know. We do not want to feel left out.

If you want to be loved, be lovable; if you want to be prosperous, think of prosperity

And that's how Rhonda Byrne, an Australian divorcee and former television producer, became a multimillionaire almost overnight. Her life was in shambles until she wrote a book about a long-known principle or philosophy she called "The Secret."

According to a Newsweek report, the book sold 1.5 million while the DVD version 1.7 million copies in three months. It became a phenomenal bestseller in the United States, United Kingdom and Australia.

Even in the Philippines, where the average population is not known to be avid book readers, "The Secret" did quite well. People bought copies for themselves and as gifts to friends and relatives.

Is the book really worth its price, containing substantial information, or is it just a product of good marketing strategy?.

Going over the book that a friend gave me, I found nothing that is really new or that I did not know before. The book talks mainly about the Law of Attraction, which is only one of the four hidden laws of nature.

Calling it "The Secret" was a stroke of marketing genius. And showing people how the secret works in daily life insured its success with a reading public always hungry for something new and practical.

The following passage in the book's foreword proved irresistible:

"A year ago, my life had collapsed around me. I'd worked myself into exhaustion, my father died suddenly, and my relationship with my colleagues and loved ones were in turmoil. Little did I know at the time, out of my greatest despair was to come the greatest gift.

"I'd been given a glimpse of a Great Secret—The Secret to life. The glimpse came in a hundred-year-old book, given to me by my daughter ("The Science of Getting Rich" written by Wallace Wattles in 1910). I began tracing The Secret back through history. I couldn't believe all the people who knew this. They were the greatest people in history: Plato, Shakespeare, Newton, Hugo, Beethoven, Lincoln, Emerson, Edison, Einstein.

"Incredulous, I asked, 'why doesn't everyone know this?' A burning desire to share The Secret with the world consumed me, and I began searching for people alive today who knew The Secret.

"One by one they emerge. I became a magnet: as I began to search, one great living master after another was drawn to me. In a few short weeks I had traced The Secret back through the centuries and I had discovered the modern practitioners of The Secret."

The Secret that Byrne talks about in the entire book is the Law of Attraction, which she describes this way:

"If you can think about what you want in your mind and make that your dominant thought, you will bring it into your life."

According to her, "People who have drawn wealth into their lives used The Secret, whether consciously or unconsciously. They think thoughts of abundance and wealth, and they do not allow any contradictory thoughts to take root in their minds. Their predominant thoughts are of wealth. They only know wealth, and nothing else exists in their minds. Whether they are aware of it or not, their predominant thoughts of wealth are what brought wealth to them. It is the law of attraction in action."

The Law of Attraction works in all aspects of our life, including our spiritual life.

Unfortunately, the book focuses mainly on attracting riches and wealth, which is what most people want to hear about and that is why the book has become so successful. Who does not want to be rich?

But there are other equally important hidden laws of nature that the book fails to mention or emphasize such as the Law of Affirmation or Suggestion, the Law of Compensation and the Law of Causality.

Nevertheless, I must credit Byrne and congratulate her for bringing to a large number of people around the world the tremendous powers of human thought and emotion.

I have been teaching this in my inner-mind development seminars in the Philippines for the last 25 years. With her book, the same teaching has reached a wider audience.

In my seminar, I define the Law of Attraction as "like attracts like." We attract what we are, or what we think we are. If you want to be loved, you must be lovable; if you want to be happy, you must think of happiness; if you want to be prosperous, you must think of prosperity.

That is exactly what Byrne is saying in "The Secret."

Look good this Christmas

THE ACRONYM AWSM STANDS FOR Aesthetic, Weight and Skin Management.

It refers to the services patients who want to improve their looks and feel good can receive from the St. Luke's Medical Center's three Centers of Excellence.

The centers involved in AWSM are dermatology headed by Dr. Lonabel Encarnacion, aesthetic surgery headed by Dr. René Valerio, and obesity and weight management under Dr. Luisito Llido.

The DermCen treats skin problems and serious conditions that require utmost medical attention.

It provides patients with services ranging from acne treatment to body sculpting to skin-cancer management. State-of-the-art technology is used by internationally trained experts.

People who want to look their best for the Christmas holidays or any day of the year, DermCen recently acquired the Tenor RF for body contouring and skincare.

Approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration, energy-based Tenor RF has three capabilities: Unipolar RF to recontour body size, Bipolar RF to tighten skin, and RF Pixel to refine skin texture and minimize scars.

As introductory promo, patients get a 50-percent discount on their fourth Tenor RF session. Offer is available until Dec. 31.

BPI, Security Bank and Diner's Club International cardholders can avail of three to six months deferred payment plans at zero interest.

The AWSM Centers are on 12/F, Cathedral Heights Building Complex, St. Luke's Medical Center. Call 7230101/0301 ext. 5208, 5207, 5209.

DERMCEN head Dr. Lonabel A. Encarnacion uses RF Pixel to refine facial skin texture.

13,000 join final marathon leg

MANILA MAYOR ALFREDO LIM attended the recent final leg of the 31st edition of the National Milo Marathon at the Quirino Grandstand.

The country's biggest and most prestigious running competition attracted more than 13,000 running and fitness aficionados.

Lim was joined by key executives of Nestlé Philippines led by president and chief executive officer Nandu Nandkishore, chief financial officer Peter Noszek, senior vice president and business executive manager for beverages Dennis Austriaco, assistant vice president and Milo consumer marketing manager Michelle Calo-Alvarillo, and AVP and Milo sports events executive Pat Goc-ong.

Nestlé officials from different parts of the world were also present. They included Nestlé quality management and systems project manager for Asia Oceania and Africa Beat Stettler from Switzerland, project managers Wendy Zhao from China and BB Lee from Korea.

Representatives from Nestlé Turkey were led by brand manager Ozge Sariogiu, business manager for children's beverages Hakan Misri and general trade sales manager Can Cakur.

Army man Cresenciano Sabal finished the 42-km course in two hours and 22 minutes to win the championship trophy in the men's division for the second year.

MARATHON champs Flordeliza Carreon and Cresenciano Sabal

The women's division crowned a new champion, Flordeliza Carreon.

Other participants in this year's race were champion marathoners like Roy Vence and Eduardo Buenavista.

On the lighter side, the marathon featured a cheerdance competition that was won by Bagong Silang Elementary School and Children of Mary Immaculate College.

NESTLÈ Phils. CEO and president Nandu Nandkishore, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim and Nestlè AVP and Milo sports events executive Pat Goc-ong

Participant Mukami Kariuki, a World Bank executive who is a newcomer in marathon running, said the best part of the competition, was seeing the thousands of people who took part. She encouraged Milo to continue holding the marathon for everyone, especially kids.

With the success of this year's competition, organizers promise an even bigger, grander 32nd National Milo Marathon that would be staged in more cities nationwide.

With the strong support it gets from partners and running enthusiasts everywhere, the National Milo Marathon seems poised to achieve greater success in keeping the country's passion for marathon alive.

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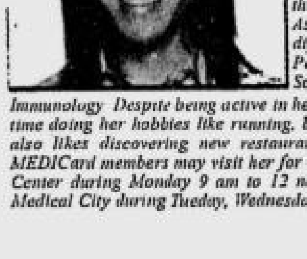
MEDICard, The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

What is Asthma and what triggers it?

Asthma is a chronic lung disease characterized by inflammation of the airways. The inflammation makes the passages smaller, making it more difficult for air to move in and out of the lung, causing symptoms such as cough, chest tightness, shortness of breath and wheezing. Asthma triggers include allergic rhinitis and exposure to allergens including dust mites, pollens, animal dander and cockroach droppings. Inflamed asthmatic airways are sensitive to environmental irritants such as cigarette smoke, strong perfumes, household cleaners, and car fumes. There is much evidence reporting increased incidence of asthma in children exposed to smoke. Viral infections like colds, changing weather conditions, changes in temperature and humidity, emotional anxiety, and gastroesophageal reflux can also aggravate asthma. Asthma Triggers may differ from person to person, therefore identifying and avoiding these triggers can help lessen the chance of having an asthma attack.



Dr. Michelle Joy De Vera provides us with this week's discussion on Asthma. Dr. De Vera, a medicine graduate of UP, took her residency training for pediatrics in 1999 and later had her sub-specialization in Allergy and Immunology at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois. She is a fellow of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, and also a diplomate of the Philippine Pediatric Society and the Philippine Society of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology. Despite being active in her profession, Dr. De Vera still finds time doing her hobbies like running, biking and mountain climbing. She also likes discovering new restaurants and cafes around the metro. MEDICard members may visit her for consultations at St. Luke's Medical Center during Monday 9 am to 12 noon or set an appointment at The Medical City during Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

Nicky

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

MEDICard [illegible]

Your Doctor Knows Best

Ruby T. Go MD, FPSEM

Question:

Diabetes seems to run in my family. My parents and other relatives have diabetes. I am aware that I have a big chance of having it as well. What are the common symptoms that I should watch out for?

Doctor Says...

Diabetes Mellitus (DM) is a serious chronic metabolic disease characterized by an increase in blood sugar level. This happens when the pancreas cannot produce sufficient amount of insulin (a hormone that promotes the utilization of sugar in the body) or when the body cannot properly use insulin.

Globally, the number of people affected by diabetes has reached alarming levels and has been continuously increasing through the years. In the Philippines, it is estimated that about 12 million Filipinos have diabetes, of which half are undiagnosed. If the trend will not dramatically change, diabetes will be affecting 15 million Filipinos by 2010.

DM can be classified as Type 1 or Type 2, depending on the cause of increased blood sugar. In Type 1 DM, there is destruction of cells in the pancreas that produce insulin, while Type 2 results from defects in insulin action or secretion. The classic symptoms of diabetes include polyuria (frequent urination), polydipsia (increased thirst and consequent fluid intake) and polyphagia (increased appetite). Symptoms may develop quite rapidly (weeks or months) in Type 1 DM, which is more common in children. However, in Type 2 DM, the symptoms develop more slowly and may be subtle or completely absent. Type 1 DM may also cause weight loss (despite normal or increased eating) and generalized fatigue. These symptoms can also manifest in those with Type 2 DM if blood sugar is poorly controlled.

Please note that both Type 1 and Type 2 DM are partly inherited. Genetics play a role but environmental triggers are still needed for DM to fully develop. These triggers may be in certain forms of infection for Type 1 DM or risk factors such as hypertension, high bad cholesterol, obesity or habitual physical inactivity for Type 2 DM. Type 1 DM develops during childhood or adolescence and affects about 10% of all patients with diabetes. This type of diabetes is also called insulin dependent diabetes because lifetime of insulin injection is needed for survival since the pancreas is unable to produce insulin. On the other hand, Type 2 DM or non-insulin dependent diabetes affects about 90% of those with diabetes with overweight or obesity as a common risk factor. This type of diabetes frequently goes undiagnosed for many years. This is because hyperglycemia or high blood sugar develops gradually, thus the symptoms usually go unnoticed.

Undiagnosed and poorly managed DM can lead to various complications. Long-term exposure to high blood sugar levels can cause damage and failure of certain organ functions. Common complications include blindness, kidney failure, stroke, heart attack, wounds that would not heal leading to amputations and impotence. These complications may be prevented with proper management of the condition.

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle – proper diet, weight loss, regular exercise, cessation from smoking and moderate alcoholic drinking, is the key in delaying (for high-risk individuals) or controlling the disease. Appropriate or therapeutic lifestyle changes coupled with pharmacotherapy and patient education and counselling are required to manage diabetes. Good blood sugar control will enable a person with diabetes live a normal life. If you have relatives with DM, overweight or obese, or has high blood cholesterol and blood pressure levels, it is best to consult with your doctor for proper guidance, diagnosis and management of your condition.

Dra. Go is an endocrinologist. She holds clinic at Manila Doctor's Hospital, Cardinal Santos Medical Center and Chinese General Hospital. She is the president of the Philippine Lipid and Atherosclerosis Society, and past president of the Philippine Diabetes Association, Inc., and Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism.

This column is supported by AstraZeneca Philippines as part of its disease awareness campaign. This is not intended to replace the advice of a healthcare professional. Always consult your doctor.

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Weight loss solutions that last

(Part 1)

By Mitch Felipe
Contributor

MOST PROBABLY, YOU assume you have tried everything to get the body that you want.

But you often get discouraged because, after all the effort, either you find it difficult to stick to a program, unable to get the results you want, or you still face the same issues after all your hard work.

The following are solutions you can apply to common challenges that delay or hinder long-lasting weight loss:

Get educated to get results.

If you get results, you become more motivated to exercise and become more mindful of what you eat. But if you fail, your enthusiasm weakens.

You cannot be blamed for thinking about the easiest weight-loss solutions after numerous attempts. Quick fix strategies like diet pills or fasting will give you temporary results but they will not guarantee weight maintenance, which is more essential.

The key to a lasting outcome is knowledge and awareness of the whole process.

Analyze yourself and your progress then identify the areas where you need help. It could be exercise, food planning, motivation or attitude.

Consult professionals and learn strategies and ways to implement them effectively. This will save you time and energy trying to find out about a wide range of approaches. It will also prevent injuries or any harmful effects of unsupervised exercise and diet programs.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Get a coach to guide and educate you on how to do things safely on your own. Eileen Lorenzo, dentist, tried almost all strategies available only to regain the weight she lost.

Finally, she got a weight-loss coach and lost 60 pounds. She says, "Getting out of your comfort zone is scary at first, but a weight manager definitely made the road to fitness smoother."

Apply a flexible eating approach.

Why do most diets fail?

If a diet is not followed, you feel lack of control and tend to abandon it. Let us say you had three pieces of chocolates, instead of one, from a box. You say, "Since I broke my diet, I may as well finish the whole box."

I often hear stories like this from people who tried various diets for years, only to discover that creating their own meal plans is the start of a victorious weight loss journey.

Being in charge of your food intake, deciding for instance when to have the once-a-week chocolate dessert, removes restrictions that might lead to loss of control and deprivation.

A recent comprehensive analysis of 31 long-term diet studies published in American Psychologist shows that people on diets typically lose 5-10 percent of their starting weight in the first six months. After four or five years, majority put on more weight than they lost.

According to James Rippe, author of "Weight Loss that Lasts: Break through the 10 Big Diet Myths," people who meticulously count every calorie and read every food label have high levels of dietary restraint associated with unsuccessful weight loss attempts.

This cannot be sustained for long periods of time and, eventually, it will be abandoned and overeating occurs.

Create your own daily food plan that matches your way of living. It should include strategies like when to shop for healthier foods, how to prepare a low-calorie version of your favorite foods. You should think of ways to replace junk foods at home with nutritious but tasty snacks.

Focus on living, not losing.

May be you have already achieved your target weight and you ask yourself, "Now that I've lost weight, then what?"

It is not how much and how fast you have lost weight that counts, but how much you have learned from your experiences and how much more improvement you can attain during your lifetime.

Chris Juan, managing director of a retreat house, lost 30 pounds last year and then regained 15 pounds this year.

During the initial stage of his weight-loss program, Chris admitted he was motivated by the desire to lose weight and improve his appearance. After losing 30 pounds, he felt relaxed for a while and got busy.

He often made his job an excuse to delay exercise. He ate fatty foods as a way to relieve stress. In the latter part of this year, he made an effort to explore a different type of motivation so he can stick to his exercise program again and modify his eating habits.

"My goal right now is not to achieve a six-pack abs anymore, but to keep on improving my fitness level to be able to join a marathon next year." The moment he decided to achieve a long-term, performance-based goal, he started to lose the weight he regained.

For comments or questions e-mail the author at mitchfelipe@gmail.com

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DE-STRESS and relax this Christmas season at The Spa.

Gift of pampering

SPARE YOURSELF THE stress of finding the right present for loved ones.

Check out The Spa's gift suggestions that will help your friends and loved ones de-stress and relax this season.

The Spa's Wellness Gift Cards are as good as cash at any branch. Available in denominations of P1,000, P1,500, and P2,000, the Wellness Gift Cards come in fancy packaging.

Moreover, for a minimum single purchase of P5,000 you get a free burner that you can give away or keep for yourself!

The Spa's bestselling services include the Volcanic Rock Massage, Honey Body Polish, Javanese Royal Bath, and Coffee Rub.

This Christmas, The Spa is also introducing a new treatment package: Earthly Passion, a three-hour treatment that consists of Honey Body Polish, Executive Aromatherapy massage and either Fango Mud facial or Moor facial.

When you avail of the Earthly Passion package, you get one free P1,000 Wellness Gift Card. This offer is available until Dec. 31.

The Spa has also bundled a set of gift items that feature products with internationally-renowned brands like Babor, Phytomer, Decleor and The Natural Source. Each gift bundle comes with a free price-off voucher!

The Spa (www.thespa.com.ph) has branches in Acropolis (642-2848), Alabang (850-3490), Bel-Air (895-5858), Greenbelt (840-1325), The Podium (638-8388).

A COFFEE rub is one of the treatments at The Spa.

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Guests will be provided sanitized bathrobes, towels, shorts and slippers (047) 252-6088. Ritz Spa Malate is a one-stop place for total relaxation of mind and body at 1614 M. Adriatico St., Malate, Manila; 523-3333.

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HDI Network lets you show how much you care for friends and loved ones this Christmas season through its Christmas Gift Packs. Available at a special price for a limited time, the Dynamic Trio set includes Bee Propolis, Pollenergy 520 and Royal Jelly. Bee Propolis is a strong natural antibiotic, antiviral, antifungal, antiseptic product. Royal Jelly tablet is an anti-oxidant that will help counter the adverse effects of disease-causing free radicals. It contains all the goodness of royal jelly in a convenient tablet form, for youth and vitality. Pollenergy 520 is a healthy source of nutrition with high amounts of enzymes and vitamins. Honeybee PollenS can help a child's body and brain development, regulate metabolism and appetite. Propolis Facial Soap has anti-bacterial, anti-microbial and moisturizing properties. Polifrez is a gel toothpaste that contains propolis and tea tree oil. Gano Gold Coffee is a special 4-in-1 coffee with Ganoderma (also known as lingzhi). You get a free gift when you buy a Christmas Gift Pack. Nex Temp is a credit card type, handy personal oral thermometer using the latest technology. It has non-toxic green dots (liquid crystals) that turn black when a person's temperature is high. Delivery is free in selected areas nationwide. HD products are approved by the Bureau of Food and Drugs and are Halal (435-9999, 635-2431; third floor, Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City; www.hdinetwork.com.ph).

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ANS: a)The Dragon b)The Sheep c)The Monkey d)The Horse
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Juday, Ryan: Ties that bind

By Marinel R. Cruz

AS IN ANY OTHER RELATIONSHIP, the ties that bind Judy Ann Santos and boyfriend Ryan Agoncillo have their rough moments.

The actress said the early phase of their three-year romance was the most difficult. "We were insecure about many things and we fought a lot. We still fight, but we're more mature in facing problems," Judy Ann told a group of writers in a gathering to promote her latest film "Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo" or "SSS."

Ryan agreed: "The things we quarrel about today are very different from the past. For example, Juday (Judy Ann's nickname) and I recently argued about which one of us should spend the weekend with Yohan. We also discussed which pre-school to send her to."

Yohan, 3, is Juday's adopted daughter.

Juday and Ryan play Angie and Jed, a married couple in "SSS," sequel to Star Cinema's "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo," last year's top-grosser in the Metro Manila Film Festival. Joey Reyes directs.

"KKK" tackles the difficulties of being newlyweds. "SSS" is about a couple coping with the demands of parenthood. The film takes off when Angie and Jed's son turns 4.

"We're not like our characters at all," said Juday. "I would never marry Jed; he's spineless. And Angie is such a nag. But our being parents to Yohan helped us empathize with them."

What did they discover about each other while making this film? "That we're more effective as actors when we settle issues before going to work — though there was never a time when we allowed personal problems to get in the way of our jobs," Juday explained.

Whenever she has a tiff with Ryan, Juday runs to her girlfriends, or to her brother Jeffrey, for advice. "I' m the type who needs to get things off my chest—or I'd get a heart attack," she said. "Ryan keeps to himself, but when things get serious, he goes to my mom. *Pagtutulungan na nila ako.*"

"When things are really bad between us, I take a few days off," Ryan added. "I talk to her only when I'm able to keep a cool head."

No wedding plans

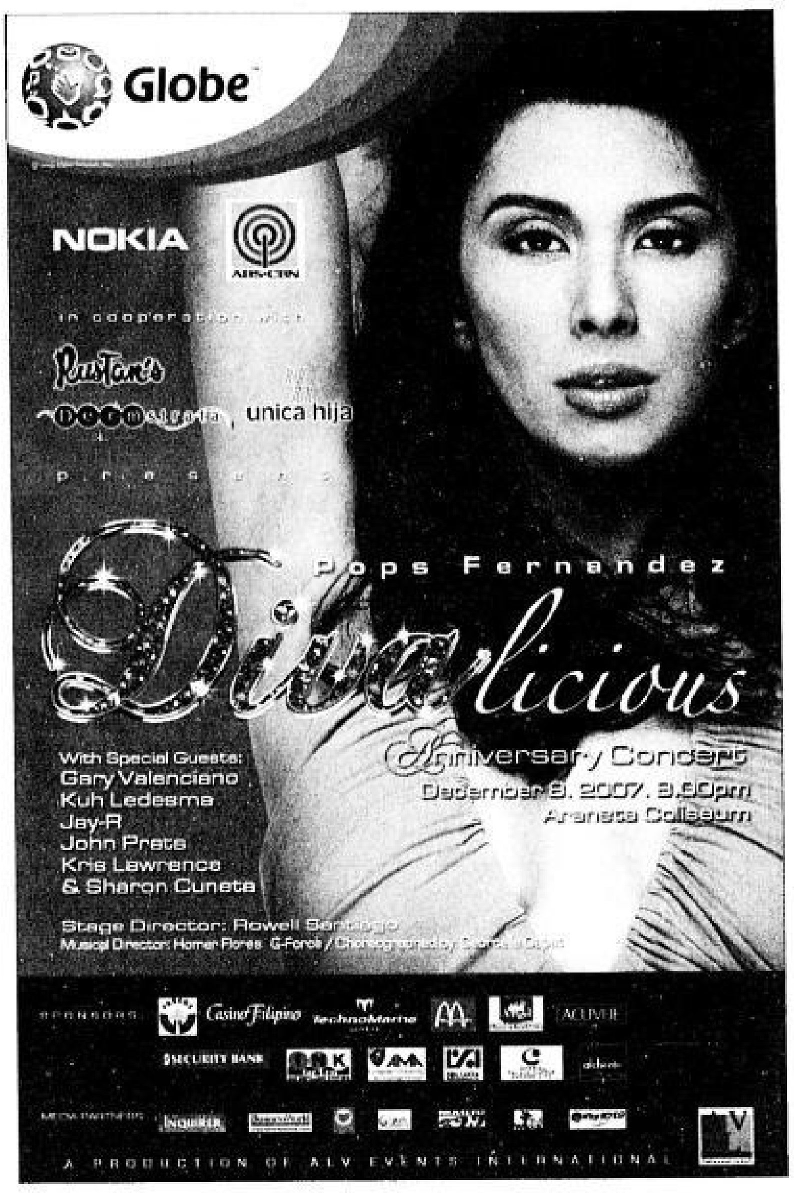
Juday and Ryan pointed out that while they now feel like parents, they still have no plans of having their own child. They have constantly denied reports that they are getting married soon, and opposed the idea of becoming live-in partners.

"We refuse to get pressured into marriage by people around us," said Ryan. "For me, living together outside the sanctity of marriage is not an option. I come from a very traditional family."

"I have nothing against couples who live in," explained Juday. "It's just not for me."

"Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo" is Star Cinema's entry to the Metro Manila Film Festival in December. It also features Gloria Diaz, Ariel Ureta, Gina Pareno, Soliman Cruz, Tuesday Vargaz, Ketchup Eusebio and Dominic Ochoa.

INSIDE
- **Reese Witherspoon is the highest paid actress in US** /D6
- **Positive and negative values on TV** Viewfinder /D6



Katrina on Marian: We're not friends

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

KATRINA HALILI REMAINS unperturbed by comparisons to her "Marimar" co-star **Marian Rivera**. "We should not be compared because we have different personalities and mass appeal," she explains.

Doesn't she feel it's time for her to be the lead star like Marian in her own *teleserye*? "It doesn't bother me whether I'm the *bida* or *contrabida*," she says, "as long as *markado ang role ko*."

Does professional rivalry get in the way of her friendship with Marian? "We're not friends," she quips. "Only work mates."

FHM's Sexiest is also show biz's fieriest!

Overdue comeback

ABS-CBN's hit *teleserye* "Maging Sino Ka Man," which premieres Dec. 10, casts **Philip Salvador, Rosanna Roces, Angelica Panganiban, Derek Ramsay, Toni Gonzaga, John Lloyd, Bea Alonzo, Sam Milby, Anne Curtis, Boyet de Leon** and **Chinchin Gutierrez.**

It's a long overdue comeback for Ipe (Philip). He plays Mateo, a mysterious man who wants vengeance—his exact opposite in real life.

What advice will he give the love teams in their show? "I don't need to advise them because the Lord guides them," he says. Is he open to working with his ex **Kris Aquino**? "If it's God's grace, why not?"

After all the trials, Ipe is now truly living an answered prayer.

Christmas three?

Dennis Trillo's cool dad **Leslie** sent me this text: "There have been a lot of issues against Carlene and her family but Dens doesn't want to rock the boat lest he not be allowed to see **Calix** even this Christmas." Won't Dens, Carlene and their baby be a Christmas three?

Lovable Kabisotes

The lovable Kabisotes are back on the silver screen this Christmas via OctoArts Films and M-Zet TV Productions' "Enteng Kabisote 4: Okay Ka, Fairy Ko (The Beginning of a Legend)." This series is a consistent top grosser in the annual Metro Manila Film Festival.

Vic is reluctant to be called the "Other Comedy King." "I don't think I'm deserving of such a title *kasi nag-iisa lang si* **Dolphy**. I just want to make the audience happy," he humbly says.

His son **Oyo** is also in the movie along with rumored GF

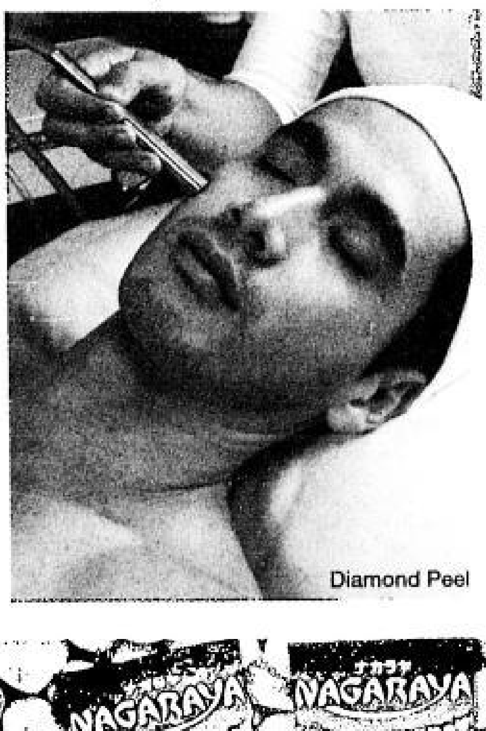
KATRINA/ D3

Give Your Looks — an Upgrade

Facial Care Centre FOR MEN offers
5 Ways to rid your skin of its flaws

1 **Acne scars and Blemishes**

Sure, chicks dig the Colin-Farell-scruffy look, but acne scars and blemishes *do not* equal ruggedly handsome. Pricking pimples end up in scars and blemishes - which last longer than the actual zits! Before someone calls you Crater Face, try the **Diamond Peel**. It's a highly advanced procedure that'll painlessly remove old dead surface skin. It gets rid of post-acne scars, blemishes and other dark spots.



Diamond Peel

2 **Pimple breakouts and Back Acne**

You've already been through hell in high school (unless you managed to skip the awkward stage). Acne on your face subtracts *pogi* points, while acne on your back ruins your sex appeal. So leave acne to past pubescent memories. **LightCure Acne Therapy** is an easy, effective way to get rid of the acne-fast. It uses a high intensity blue-violet light to kill acne bacteria. Amazingly, it treats zits on any part of the body 3x faster than other procedures.

3 **Fine lines and Wrinkles**

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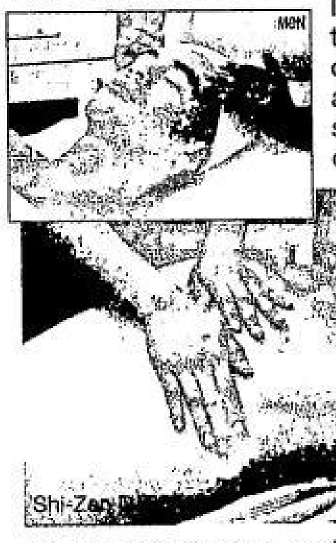
4 **Loose, sagging skin**

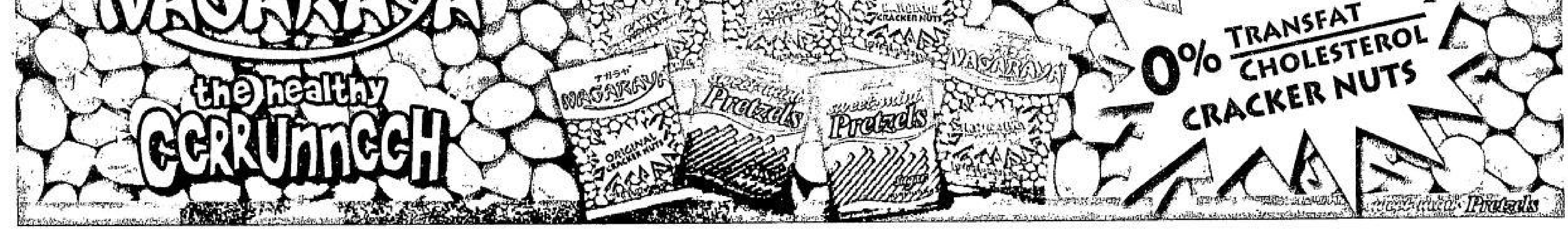
Everything is faster these days. Want to look years younger in less than an hour? **ReFirme** is a skin-tightening treatment with no needles, stitches, scars or sedation involved. After a quick 45-minute session, sags are lifted. Lines are diminished and skin is firmer.

5 **Skin Fatigue**

Stressed? Who isn't, these days? Relax and get pampered with **Shi-Zen D-Tox.** The combination of Shiatsu massage with a detoxification facial mask will surely send you to a state of nirvana. It improves the texture of your skin and corrects skin fatigue dysfunctions.



All treatments are available at the FOR MEN Centre. Call 813-7959 for a free consultation.



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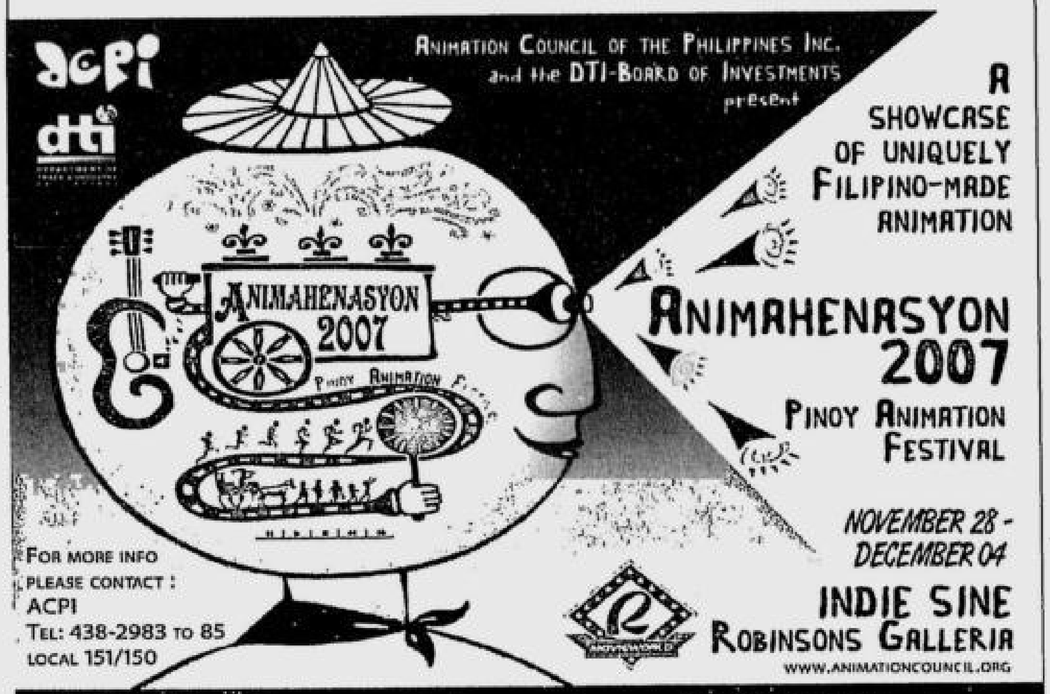

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1 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 PASUKOB
4 LIONS FOR LAMB
5 ENCHANTED
6 BEOWULF

NOW SHOWING

na-ISNATS na ba ang cellphone mo?

Robinsons Movieworld BACOLOD indieSine showing on NOVEMBER 28 to DECEMBER 04

ISNATS is an action-adventure cum satiric-informative movie about a cellphone snatching incident that leads to gangster skirmishes. Comedic scenes by Rock Icon (Rocksteddy) Teddy Corpuz(Sugo/Idol ko si Kap) QTV Hapinas Host Ronald "Joaqui" Tupas, Archie Adamos and veteran actor Berting Labra. Indie Actors Jourdan Sebastian and Joel Olaño lead the cast.

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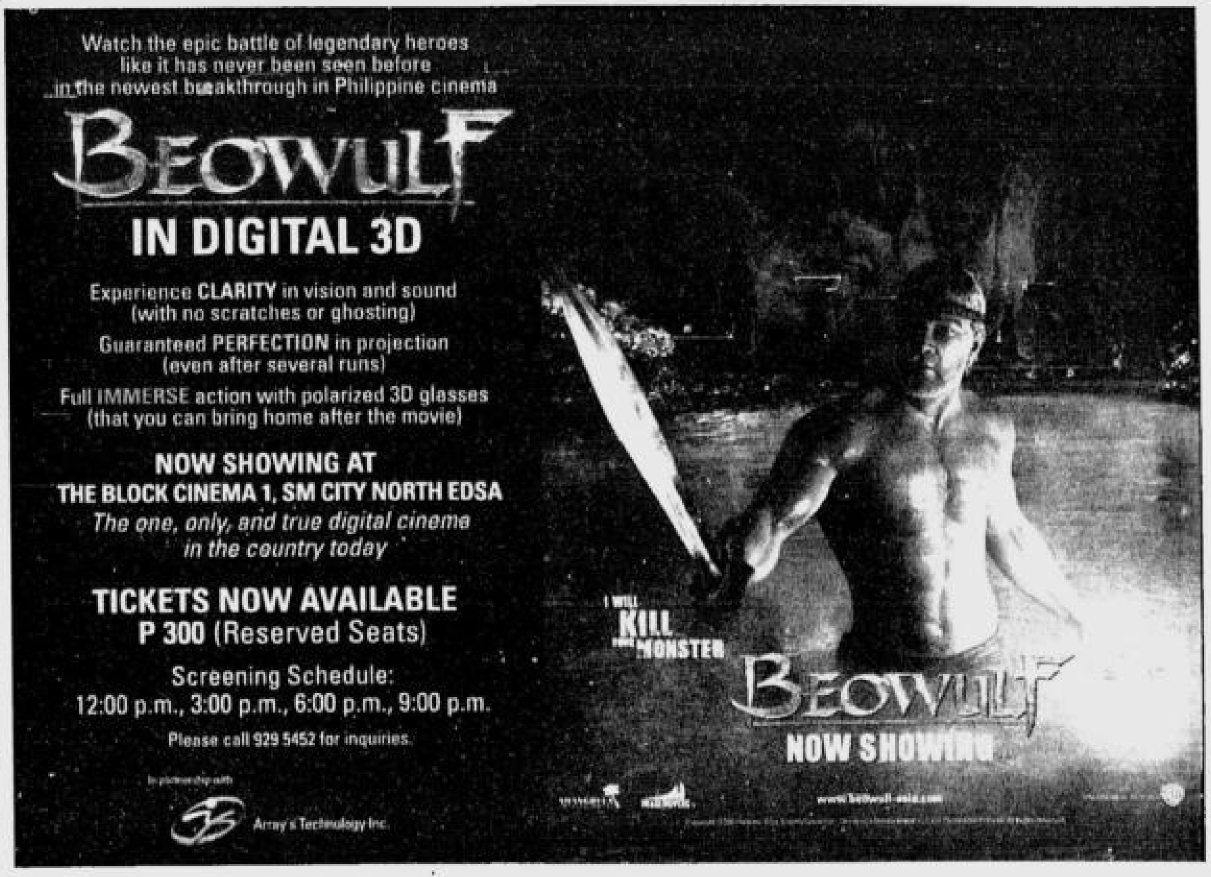
Your life as a movie

BIG MOVIES • BIG STARS • BIG SHOWS • BIG EVENTS



Watch the epic battle of legendary heroes like it has never been seen before in the newest breakthrough in Philippine cinema

BEOWULF
IN DIGITAL 3D

Experience CLARITY in vision and sound (with no scratches or ghosting)

Guaranteed PERFECTION in projection (even after several runs)

Full IMMERSE action with polarized 3D glasses (that you can bring home after the movie)

NOW SHOWING AT THE BLOCK CINEMA 1, SM CITY NORTH EDSA

The one, only, and true digital cinema in the country today

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE
P 300 (Reserved Seats)

Screening Schedule:
12:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m.

Please call 929 5452 for inquiries.

In partnership with Array's Technology Inc.

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104

IMAX

BEOWULF 3D Admission Price: P400
1:00 PM • 5:00 PM • 7:30 PM • 10:00 PM
DEEP SEA 3D Admission Price: P250
11:30 AM • 6:00 PM

1 HITMAN
2 THE KINGDOM
3 FRED CLAUSE
4 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
5 ENCHANTED/ BEOWULF
6 ONE MORE CHANCE

PREMIERE CINEMA
PASUKOB
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RESERVED
DIRECTOR'S CLUB
Bookings now accepted. Inquire at 556-2314.

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
CINEMA 2
THE KINGDOM
For ticket reservations, dial 6338976
All major credit cards accepted

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452

1 BEOWULF (DIGITAL 3D)
2 PASUKOB
3 ENCHANTED
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
6 THE KINGDOM
7 BEOWULF
8 ONE MORE CHANCE
9 FRED CLAUSE
10 MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT
11 PASUKOB
12 HITMAN

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901

1 THE KINGDOM
2 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 HITMAN
5 ENCHANTED
6 BEOWULF
7 FRED CLAUSE
8 BOOGEYMAN 2
9 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
10 PASUKOB
11 MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT
12 THE GAME PLAN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749

1 FRED CLAUSE
2 ENCHANTED
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 HITMAN
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 BEOWULF
7 THE KINGDOM
8 PASUKOB
9 BOOGEYMAN 2
10 THE GAME PLAN
11 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
12 MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055

1 THE KINGDOM
2 PASUKOB
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488

1 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
2 THE KINGDOM
3 FRED CLAUSE
4 ENCHANTED
5 PASUKOB
6 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 PASUKOB
3 THE KINGDOM
4 FRED CLAUSE

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888

1 THE KINGDOM
2 PASUKOB
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 HITMAN
5 FRED CLAUSE
6 ENCHANTED
7 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
8 BEOWULF
9 MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416

1 THE KINGDOM
2 MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 PASUKOB
5 THE GAME PLAN
6 FRED CLAUSE
7 BEOWULF
8 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
9 HITMAN
10 ENCHANTED

NOW OPEN

SM SUPERCENTER MUNTINLUPA 862 5693

1 PASUKOB
2 FRED CLAUSE
3 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
4 THE KINGDOM

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240

1 HITMAN
2 BEOWULF
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 PASUKOB
5 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
6 THE KINGDOM
7 FRED CLAUSE
8 ENCHANTED
9 ONE MORE CHANCE
10 THE GAME PLAN
11 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
12 MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917

1 BEOWULF/ MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT
2 THE KINGDOM
3 PASUKOB
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

You're invited to a very unusual family reunion.
vince vaughn paul giamatti
SANTA'S BROTHER IS COMING TO TOWN
FRED CLAUS
96.3WRocK
SM CINEMA
invite you to
MEET-AND-GREET
FRED'S BROTHER
SANTA CLAUS
First Day of December, 2007 (Saturday)
MEGAMALL Event Center
4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
See you there!
NOW SHOWING

LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868

1 MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT/ ENCHANTED
2 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
3 HITMAN
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 THE KINGDOM
6 PASUKOB
7 FRED CLAUSE
8 BEOWULF

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17

1 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
2 PASUKOB
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWULF

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160

1 PASUKOB
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 THE KINGDOM
4 ENCHANTED/ MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04

1 PASUKOB
2 FRED CLAUSE
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 THE KINGDOM

NOW OPEN

SM CITY TAYTAY 286-2502 to 04

1 THE KINGDOM
2 PASUKOB
3 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187

1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 PASUKOB
4 BEOWULF

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85

1 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
2 BEOWULF/ HITMAN
3 MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 LIONS FOR LAMBS/ ENCHANTED
6 PASUKOB

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5349811

1 ENCHANTED
2 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
3 PASUKOB
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80

1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 ENCHANTED
3 PASUKOB
4 THE GAMEPLAN

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39

1 ENCHANTED
2 PASUKOB
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 THE KINGDOM

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45

1 LIONS FOR LAMBS/ MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT
2 ENCHANTED
3 BEOWULF
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 PASUKOB
6 HITMAN

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04

1 BEOWULF
2 ENCHANTED
3 PASUKOB
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998

1 BEOWULF
2 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 ENCHANTED
5 PASUKOB
6 MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT

SM CAGAYAN DE ORO (088)859-2884

1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 PASUKOB
4 ENCHANTED

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422

1 BEOWULF
2 RESERVED
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 LIONS FOR LAMBS
5 ENCHANTED
6 ONE MORE CHANCE
7 RESERVED
8 PASUKOB

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876

1 HITMAN/ 11TH HOUR
2 LIONS FOR LAMBS
3 THE KINGDOM
4 MONA SINGAPORE ESCORT
5 ENCHANTED
6 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
7 PASUKOB
8 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010

1 PASUKOB
2 ENCHANTED
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

LT, Rudy need not wait for next year

FEEDBACK

From Cora Hizon (pangilinanadvocates@yahoo.com.ph), of Muntinlupa City:

I read the story about Lorna's promise to bring Rudy Fernandez to the St. Peregrine chapel in San Juan Capistrano, California. I am a member of the St. Peregrine healing ministry here in the Philippines. Please tell Lorna and Rudy that there is a St. Peregrine Parish Shrine on the National Road in Tunasan, Muntinlupa City (near the new SM Muntinlupa). On Sunday at 2 p.m., or every first Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., a Healing Mass is celebrated in honor of St. Peregrine.

Hurt by Star Cinema

From Kurt Perez (killer_smileguy@yahoo.com)

Gusto ko lang po i-share *sa inyo ang napakalaking pasakit na ibinigay sa amin ng* Star Cinema.

Nagkaroon ng auditions for the movie, "Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo." *May nakuha pong* talent *upang gumanap na anak ni* Juday and Ryan. They met several times and asked the child to do tapings—so the parents had to cancel previous commitments and even school. Then suddenly, a production staff member informed them that the child had been dropped from the project.

Taga-Laguna pa po ang bata, who is only 4 years old. *Nakakaawa din 'yung* mother *na nangutang lang ng pamasahe nila.* Witness *ako nu'ng in-*approve *ng* director and staff *'yung bata. Grabe.*

Thanks

From Cristy Gozon (e-mail address withheld upon request):

Thanks for the article on the America. I've loved their songs since I was in high school.

Katrina. . .

From page D1

Kristine Hermosa. Will they finally admit the real score between them and make the fifth sequel "Oyo Ko, Kristine Ko (The Beginning of a Romance)?"

Vertical Horizon

Catch Vertical Horizon, the band behind the hits "Everything You Want" and "Best I Ever Had," at the Big Dome on Dec. 7. The group will be joined by Rivermaya with new vocalist **Jayson Fernandez,** and American stand-up comedian **Jamie Kennedy.** For tickets, call 911-5555. Let Vertical Horizon expand your musical horizons.

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

Araneta Center
aranetacenter.net
Gateway
Ali MALL
Farmers Plaza
Farmers Market

Gateway CINEPLEX*10
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE
ADMIT ONE

THE KINGDOM	FRED CLAUS	MR MAGORIUMS	PASUKOB
1:30 | 4:10 6:50 | 9:30	1:45 | 4:20 6:55 | 9:30	12:30 | 2:45 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:30	12:30 | 2:45 5:00 | 7:15 | 9:00

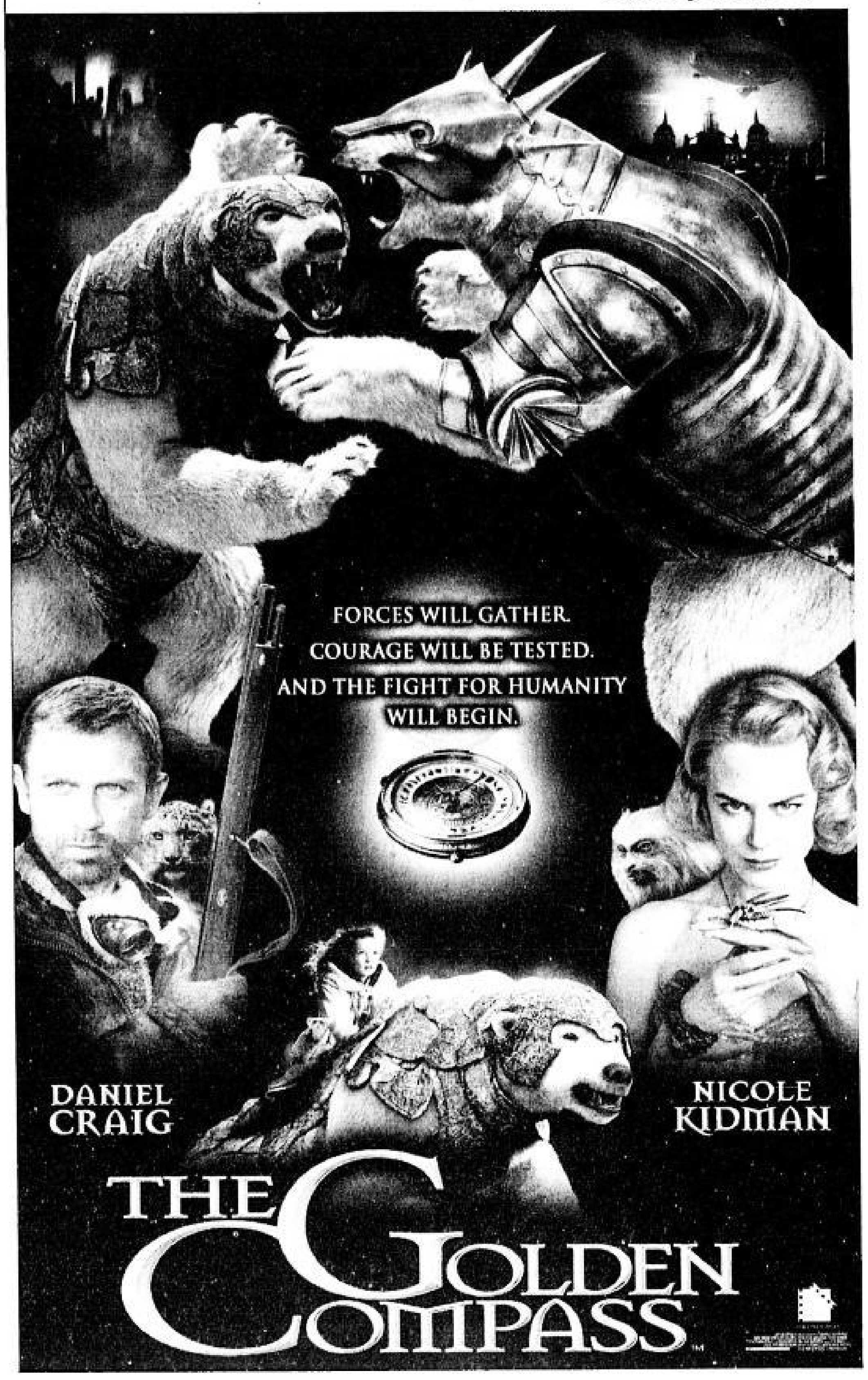
COMPLETELY UNOBSTRUCTED VIEWS — DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

BEOWULF	ENCHANTED	HITMAN	ONE MORE CHANCE
1:35 | 4:10 6:45 | 9:20	1:45 | 4:20 6:55 | 9:30	1:50 | 4:20 6:50 | 9:20	12:20 | 2:40 5:00 | 7:20 | 9:40

Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
THE KINGDOM
2:30 | 5:30 | 8:15 | 9:00

ARANETA COLISEUM
AMERICA
ALL MY LIFE
PHILIPPINE TOUR 2007
TONIGHT | 8PM
For reservations call 911-5555 or log on to ticketnet.com.ph, aranetacoliseum.com or aranetacenter.net

OPENS TOMORROW
" IN THE TRADITION OF THE LORD OF THE RINGS AND HARRY POTTER THE GOLDEN COMPASS TAKES ITS PLACE AMONGST THE GREAT FANTSY FILMS OF ALL TIME."
~ *Ben Lyons / E!*


FORCES WILL GATHER.
COURAGE WILL BE TESTED.
AND THE FIGHT FOR HUMANITY WILL BEGIN.
DANIEL CRAIG
NICOLE KIDMAN
THE GOLDEN COMPASS

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations. Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
GLORIETTA 1	BEOWULF	THE KINGDOM	PASUKOB	ONE MORE CHANCE			
GLORIETTA 4	ENCHANTED	HITMAN	THX THE KINGDOM GUARANTEED SEATS	THE NAMESAKE	FRED CLAUS	MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM	ONE MORE CHANCE
GREENBELT 1	PASUKOB	THE KINGDOM					
GREENBELT 3	THX MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM GUARANTEED SEATS	THX THE KINGDOM GUARANTEED SEATS	THE NAMESAKE GUARANTEED SEATS	FRED CLAUS GUARANTEED SEATS	ENCHANTED GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX THE KINGDOM	FRED CLAUS	MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM	PASUKOB	ENCHANTED		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	THE KINGDOM	MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM	ENCHANTED	HITMAN / LIONS FOR LAMBS			
MARKET! MARKET!	PASUKOB	FRED CLAUS	MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM	THE KINGDOM	ONE MORE CHANCE		
TRINOMA	PASUKOB	ONE MORE CHANCE	MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM GUARANTEED SEATS	FRED CLAUS GUARANTEED SEATS	HITMAN	ENCHANTED	THX THE KINGDOM GUARANTEED SEATS

TRINOMA
- THX Certified
- All-Digital Sound
- All-Stadium Seating
- Computerized Ticketing System
- Recliner Seats

AT THE MALLS

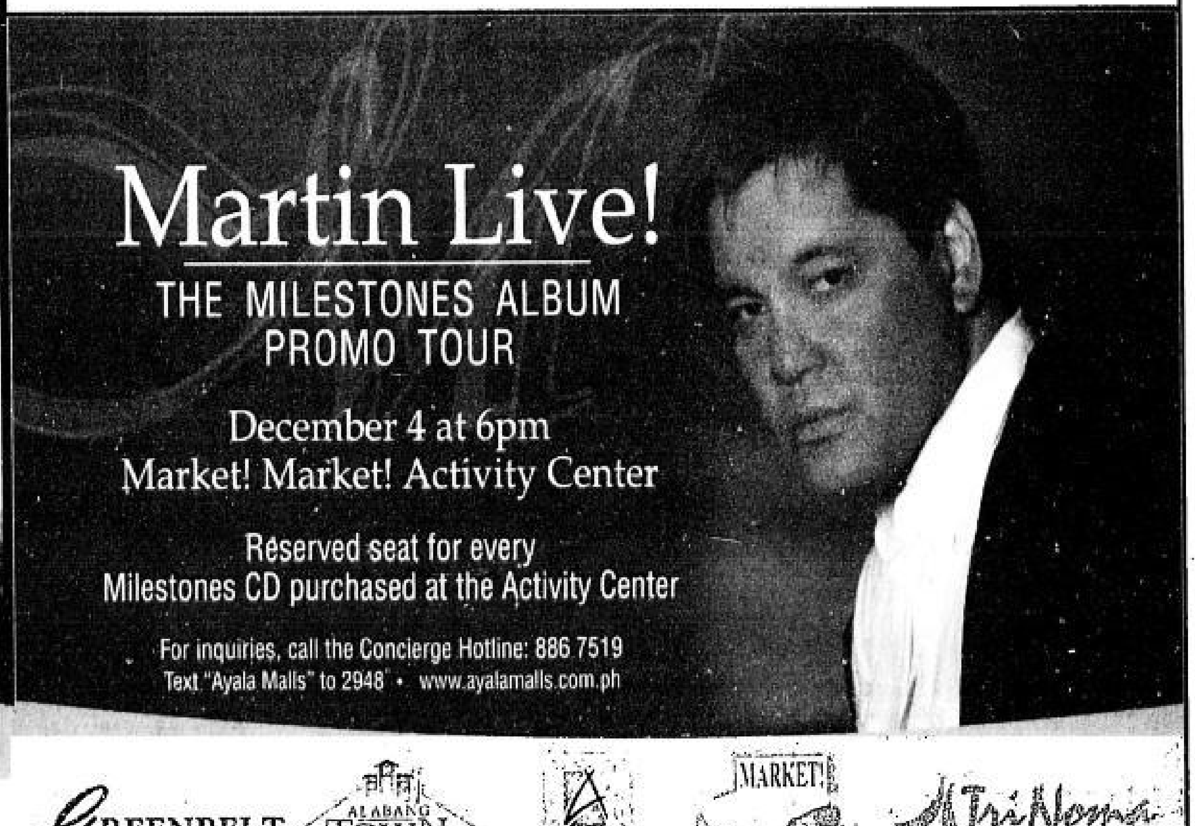
CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:

Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala Malls

glorietta	Philippine Madrigal Singers with Robert Seña and Isay Alvarez December 8; 6pm; Glorietta 4 Park
GREENBELT	The Dawn Jazz Nights December 5; 7:30pm; Greenbelt 2 Al Fresco Area
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Christmas Cantata Series Featuring Church of the Savior December 4; 6pm; Town Plaza
AYALA CENTER CEBU	FREE Christmas Gift Bag for every P500 worth of purchase. See leaflets for details. Per DTI-Cebu Permit No. 584, Series of 2007 December 1 to 31
MARKET! MARKET!	Martin Nievera Live! The Milestones Album Promo Tour December 4; 6pm; Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents FIDDLER ON THE ROOF November 9 - December 16, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	WATER: THE MEDIUM by Juvenal Sanso November 24 to January 13, 2008; Ground Floor Gallery For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	SEUSSICAL THE MUSICAL: The Cat in the Hat Live Show December 1 and 2; 11;30am, 3pm and 6pm; TriNoma Activity Center Rhythm Academy: Sam Concepcion with the Augustinian Larks December 9; 6pm; Activity Center

EXCLUSIVE GUARANTEED VIEWING PLEASURE
OPENS TOMORROW AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
BASED ON THE NOVEL FROM THE ACCLAIMED AUTHOR OF MYSTIC RIVER
"ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF 2007 A PITCH-PERFECT CRIME THRILLER."
— Richard Roeper
CASEY AFFLECK
MICHELLE MONAGHAN
MORGAN FREEMAN
ED HARRIS
GONE BABY GONE
EVERYONE WANTS THE TRUTH... UNTIL THEY FIND IT.
MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)



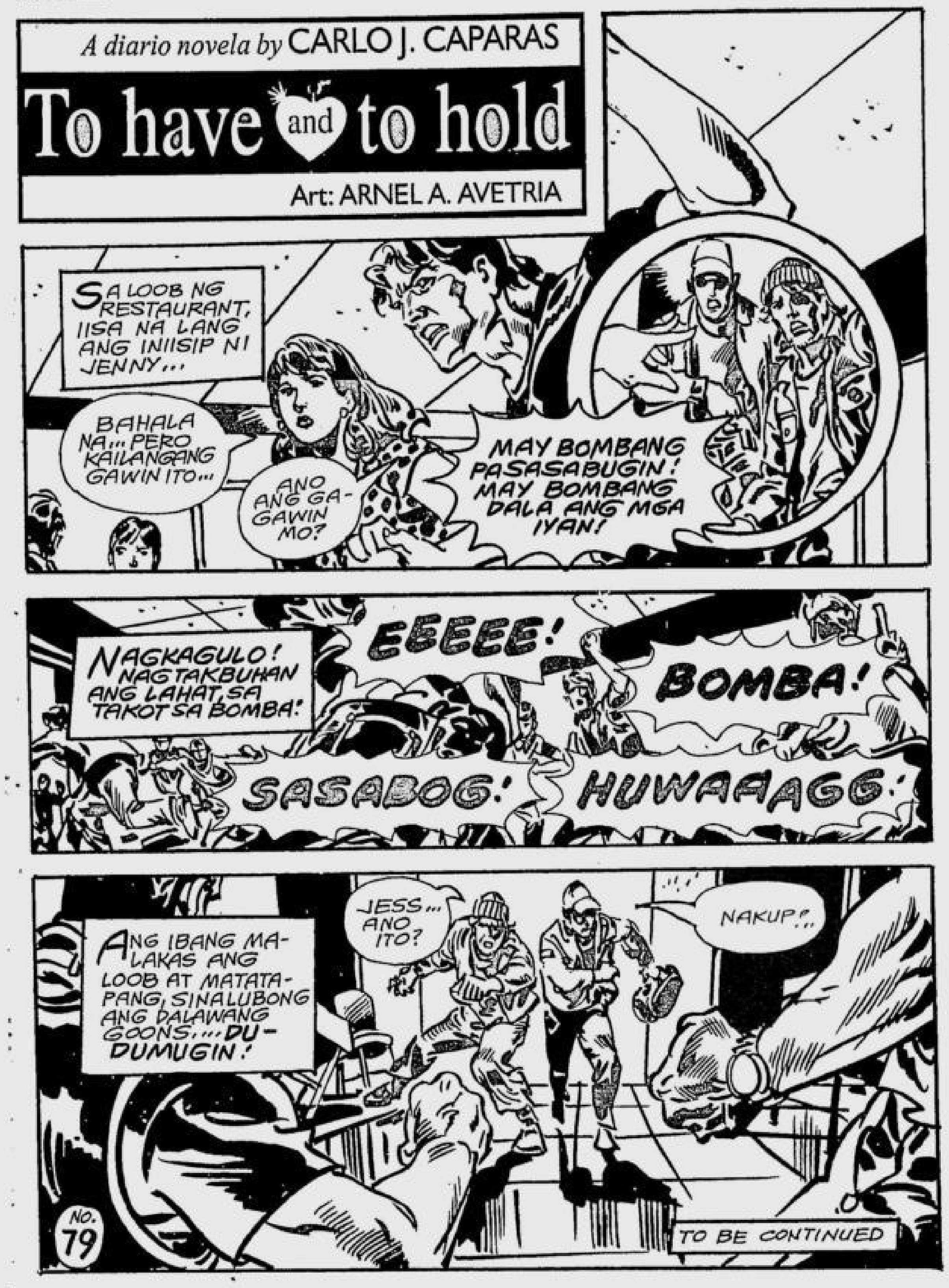
Martin Live!
THE MILESTONES ALBUM PROMO TOUR
December 4 at 6pm
Market! Market! Activity Center
Reserved seat for every Milestones CD purchased at the Activity Center
For inquiries, call the Concierge Hotline: 886 7519
Text "Ayala Malls" to 2948 • www.ayalamalls.com.ph

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

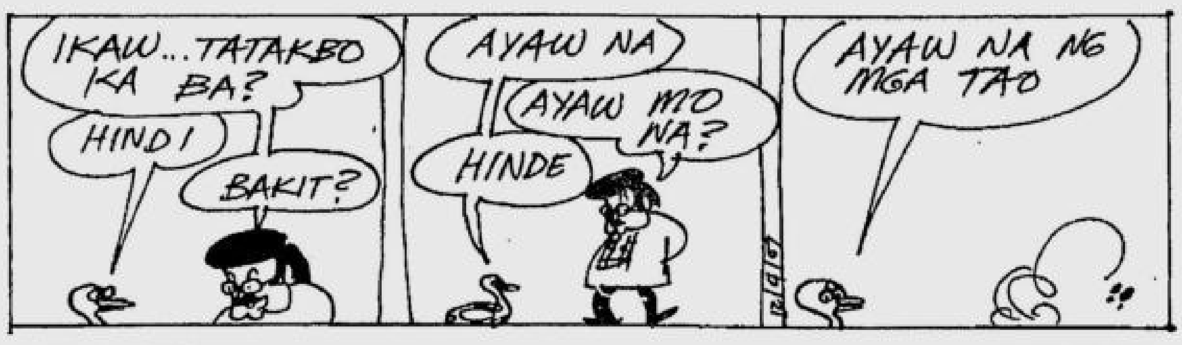
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


SA LOOB NG RESTAURANT, IISA NA LANG ANG INIISIP NI JENNY...
BAHALA NA... PERO KAILANGANG GAWIN ITO...
ANO ANG GAGAWIN MO?
MAY BOMBANG PASASABUGIN! MAY BOMBANG DALA ANG MGA IYAN!
NAGKAGULO! NAGTAKBUHAN ANG LAHAT, SA TAKOT SA BOMBA!
EEEEE!
BOMBA!
SASABOG!
HUWAAAGG!
ANG IBANG MALAKAS ANG LOOB AT MATATAPANG, SINALUBONG ANG DALAWANG GOONS,... DUDUMUGIN!
JESS... ANO ITO?
NAKUP!...
NO. 79
TO BE CONTINUED

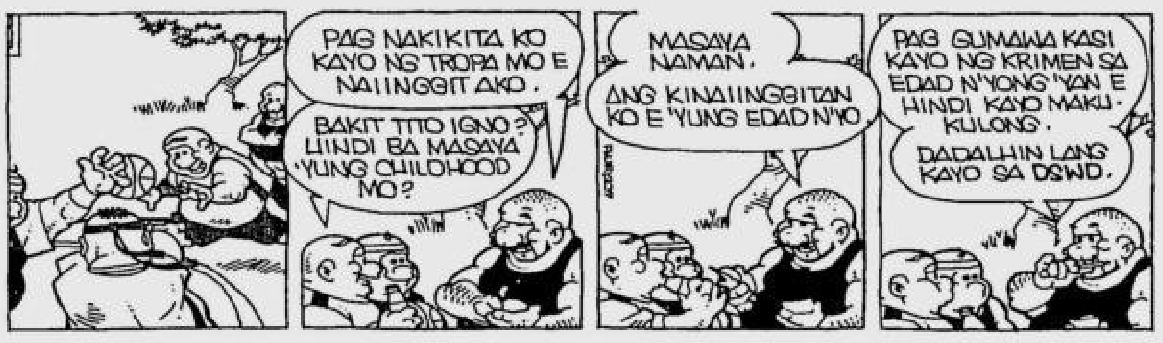
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


IKAW... TATAKBO KA BA?
HINDI
BAKIT?
AYAW NA
AYAW MO NA?
HINDE
AYAW NA NG MGA TAO

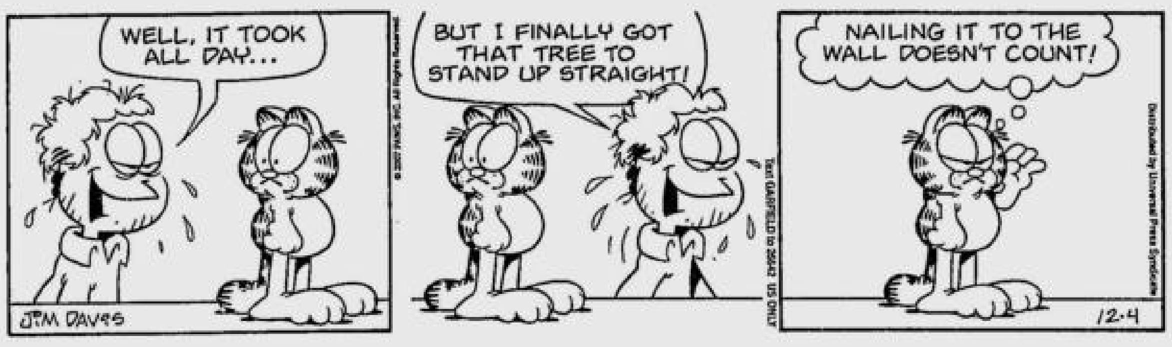
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


PAG NAKIKITA KO KAYO NG TROPA MO E NAIINGGIT AKO.
BAKIT TITO IGNO? HINDI BA MASAYA 'YUNG CHILDHOOD MO?
MASAYA NAMAN.
ANG KINAIINGGITAN KO E 'YUNG EDAD N'YO.
PAG GUMAWA KASI KAYO NG KRIMEN SA EDAD N'YONG 'YAN E HINDI KAYO MAKUKULONG.
DADALHIN LANG KAYO SA DSWD.

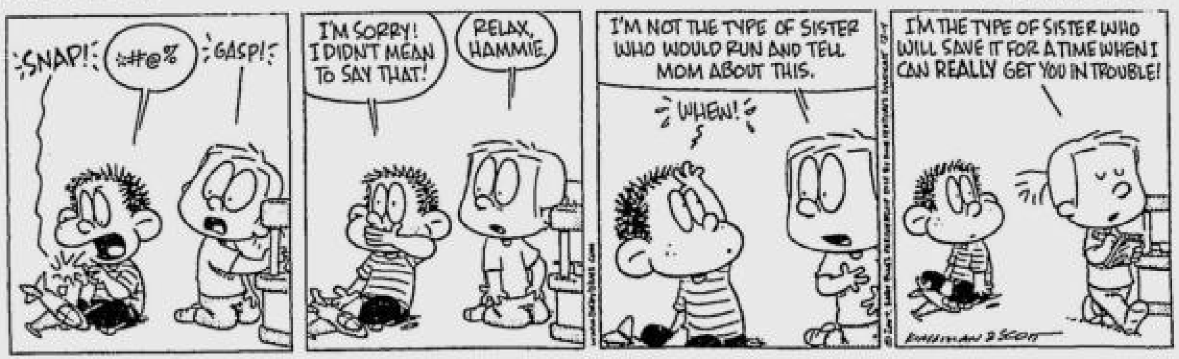
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


WELL, IT TOOK ALL DAY...
BUT I FINALLY GOT THAT TREE TO STAND UP STRAIGHT!
NAILING IT TO THE WALL DOESN'T COUNT!
JIM DAVIS
12-4

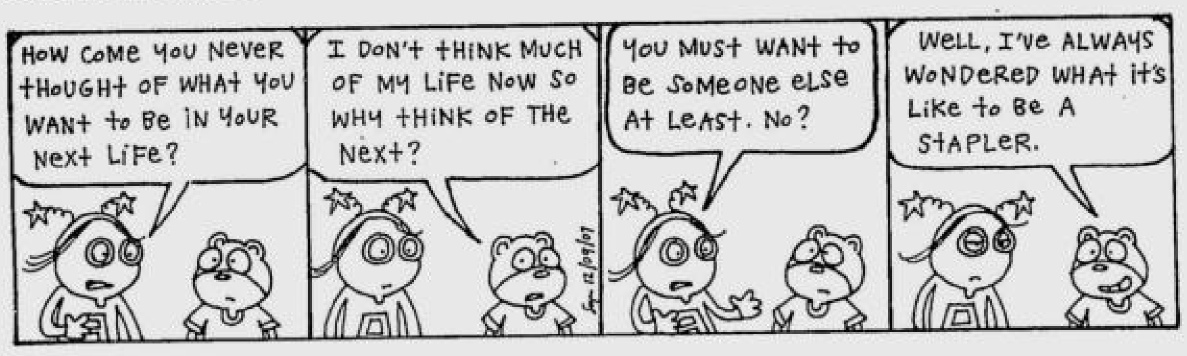
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SNAP!
#@%
GASP!
I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO SAY THAT!
RELAX, HAMMIE.
I'M NOT THE TYPE OF SISTER WHO WOULD RUN AND TELL MOM ABOUT THIS.
WHEW!
I'M THE TYPE OF SISTER WHO WILL SAVE IT FOR A TIME WHEN I CAN REALLY GET YOU IN TROUBLE!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

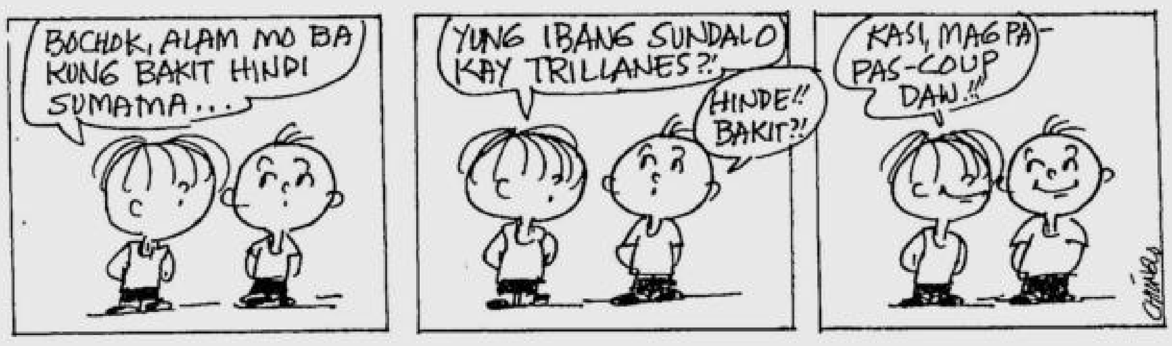
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


How come you never thought of what you want to be in your next life?
I don't think much of my life now so why think of the next?
You must want to be someone else at least. No?
Well, I've always wondered what it's like to be a stapler.

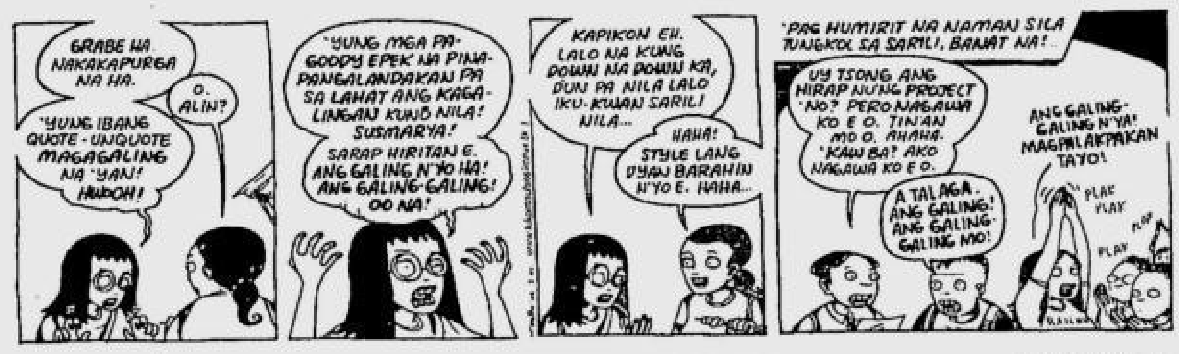
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


BOCHOK, ALAM MO BA KUNG BAKIT HINDI SUMAMA...
YUNG IBANG SUNDALO KAY TRILLANES?!
HINDE!! BAKIT?!
KASI, MAGPAPAS-COUP DAW!!

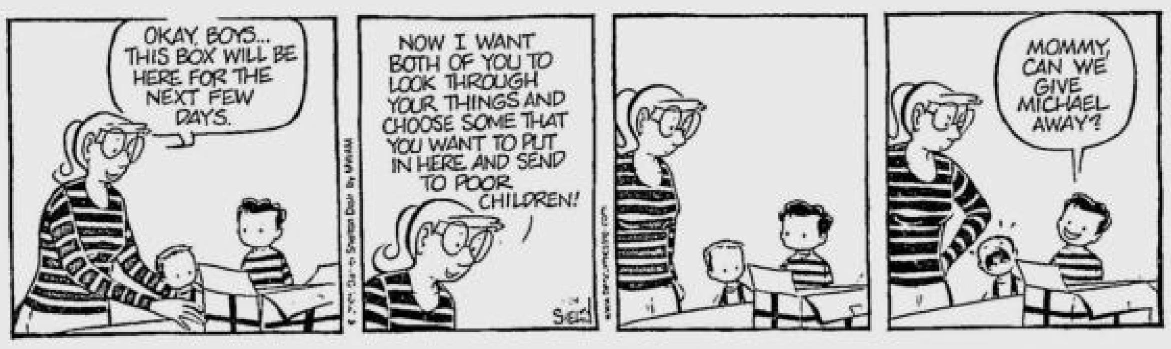
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABE HA. NAKAKAPURGA NA HA.
O. ALIN?
'YUNG IBANG QUOTE-UNQUOTE MAGAGALING NA 'YAN! HUBOH!
'YUNG MGA PA-GOODY EPEK NA PINAPANGALANDAKAN PA SA LAHAT ANG KAGALINGAN KUNO NILA! SUSMARYA!
SARAP HIRITAN E. ANG GALING N'YO HA! ANG GALING-GALING! OO NA!
KAPIKON EH. LALO NA KUNG DOWN NA DOWN KA, DUN PA NILA LALO IKU-KUWAN SARILI NILA...
HAHA! STYLE LANG DYAN BARAHIN N'YO E. HAHA...
'PAG HUMIRIT NA NAMAN SILA TUNGKOL SA SARILI, BANAT NA!
UY TSONG ANG HIRAP NUNG PROJECT 'NO? PERO NAGAWA KO E O. TINGNAN MO O. AHAHA. 'KAW BA? AKO NAGAWA KO E O.
A TALAGA. ANG GALING! ANG GALING-GALING MO!
ANG GALING-GALING N'YA! MAGPALAKPAKAN TAYO!
PLAK
PLAK
PLAK
PLAK

BEN

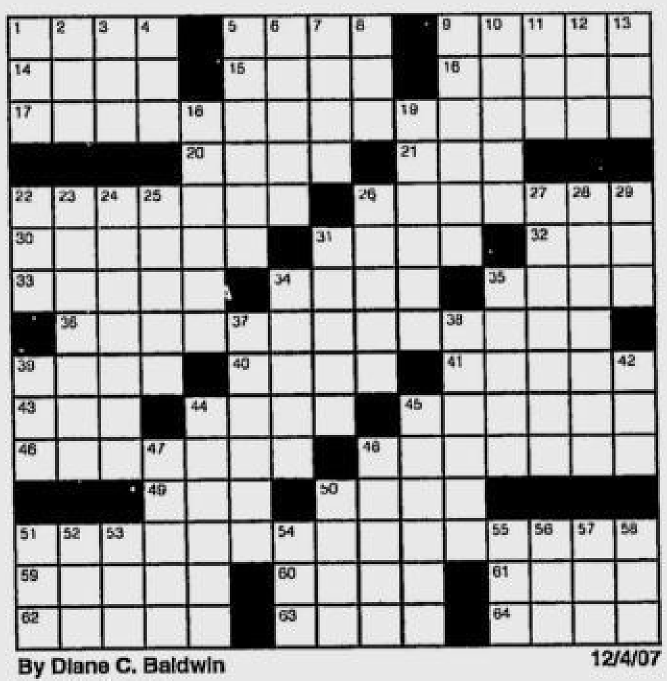
BY DANIEL SHELTON


OKAY, BOYS... THIS BOX WILL BE HERE FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS.
NOW I WANT BOTH OF YOU TO LOOK THROUGH YOUR THINGS AND CHOOSE SOME THAT YOU WANT TO PUT IN HERE AND SEND TO POOR CHILDREN!
MOMMY, CAN WE GIVE MICHAEL AWAY?

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Laughingstock
5 English bloke
9 Select few
14 NASCAR word
15 Hole up
16 Fills completely
17 Encroaches upon
20 Gluttons
21 __-de-dah
22 Loving squeeze
26 Gives the sack
30 Self-defense art
31 Small swallows
32 Actor Kilmer
33 Crumble away
34 Old Testament prophet
35 Lima location
36 Coerces
39 Japanese soup
40 Acts on a preference
41 Fine-feathered duck
43 Hydrogen's number
44 Creamy white cheese
45 Term of office
46 Musical note
48 Female greeter
49 Sympathetic attention
50 Tiniest bit
51 Gives a mild rebuke
59 Gas stove light
60 Styptic substance
61 Canyon sound
62 Irish poet of note
63 "Slippery" shade trees
64 Podiatrist's concern

DOWN
1 Pump fuel
2 Not in the running
3 Swallowed
4 Go one better
5 Prime quality
6 Be contingent on
7 Brouhahas
8 John Hancock implement
9 Some test segments
10 Latticework strips
11 Figure skater Midori
12 Links starting place
13 Slalom trail
18 Upsurges
19 Slip away
22 Supplement, with out
23 Cocktail favorite
24 Window-shopped
25 Boom box
26 Pride members
27 Late
28 Grangers
29 Grippe
31 Struck powerfully
34 Meat stock jelly
35 Pinto horse
37 Bullfighter
38 Teeter-totter
39 Dad's love
42 Doc in training
44 Fantastic times
45 Clan emblems
47 Place to catch the bus
48 Boring
50 __ never get off the ground
51 See from afar
52 Remain unused
53 In the style of
54 Scotsman's denial
55 Arena off.
56 Bar rocks
57 Cow or hen
58 Little shaver



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

12/4/07

Monday's Puzzle Solved

B	U	S	T	■	O	P	T	S	■	H	O	B	B	S
A	S	T	I	■	X	O	U	T	■	Y	P	R	E	S
N	A	A	N	■	E	T	T	E	■	M	E	E	T	S
F	I	R	E	I	N	S	U	R	A	N	C	E	■	■
F	R	E	A	K	■	■	■	E	G	O	■	Z	O	E
■	■	■	R	E	D	B	L	O	O	D	C	E	L	L
A	C	C	■	A	C	R	E	■	■	Y	O	W	L	S
S	H	O	T	■	A	R	A	B	S	■	M	A	I	A
S	U	S	H	I	■	■	F	A	K	E	■	Y	E	S
A	R	M	Y	N	A	V	Y	G	A	M	E	■	■	■
D	L	I	■	G	R	E	■	■	■	E	A	S	Y	A
■	■	C	A	R	P	E	N	T	E	R	S	H	O	P
C	A	R	T	A	■	J	O	E	Y	■	T	A	U	S
O	M	A	N	I	■	A	G	A	R	■	L	U	N	E
S	P	Y	O	N	■	Y	O	K	E	■	A	N	T	S

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12/4/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very gutsy and aggressive. You have a natural enthusiasm for life. People feel charged up when they're around you. You're not afraid of conflict, although you don't seek it out. You're quick (and accurate) to size up people and situations. Get ready for a fantastic year ahead. It might be one of the best years of your life!

Birthdate of: Marisa Tomei, actress; Jeff Bridges, actor; Tyra Banks, supermodel.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is an excellent day to talk to partners and close friends. You feel unusually sympathetic to what others have to say. You find it quite easy to put yourself in someone else's shoes.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Co-workers are sympathetic and helpful today. Conversely, you also are helpful to them. This is a good time to sit down together and figure out how you might want to approach something on the job.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today, it's very easy to get in touch with your muse or whatever inspires you. That's why it's a great day for creative activities, arts and crafts, and playful activities with children.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Domestic conversations will go well today, especially exchanges with parents and family members. People feel kind and sympathetic toward each other today.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your imagination is in overdrive today! Don't be surprised if you spend a fair amount of time daydreaming or wool-gathering. (Don't worry; it's important to do this sometimes.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): If shopping today, you're definitely tempted to spend on luxurious, beautiful things. You'll enjoy shopping for clothes or jewelry or fine cars.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): This is a pleasant, easygoing day. You feel openhearted to everyone. Enjoy schmoozing with friends. Set aside some time for socializing.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Solitude in beautiful surroundings might please you today. You need a little privacy. Partly you're daydreaming, and partly you want some peace and quiet.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): A friend might need to confide in you today. Or perhaps you need to confide in someone else. Conversations with others are heartfelt and very frank.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Authority figures (boss, parent, teacher or even the police) might be sympathetic to you today. You feel that someone understands your needs and is willing to help you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your appreciation of beauty is aroused today. Try to go someplace where you can see beautiful things—museums, galleries, boutiques, parks or whatever pleases you.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You feel selfless today because your feelings of compassion are aroused by the suffering of others. You're willing to put the needs of others before your own. If you can help someone, you certainly will.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu

By Dave Green

			8	4	6	2		
	6	5						
2	8				5	9	6	
8		7		2	3			
			7	8		5		1
	4	9	6				1	8
						7	5	
		8	1	9	7			

Difficulty Level ★★

12/04

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HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	4	5	6	1	9	3	2	7
6	2	1	8	3	7	5	9	4
7	9	3	5	2	4	1	8	6
5	6	2	4	9	3	7	1	8
3	1	8	7	5	6	9	4	2
9	7	4	1	8	2	6	5	3
2	8	7	9	6	5	4	3	1
4	3	9	2	7	1	8	6	5
1	5	6	3	4	8	2	7	9

Difficulty Level ★

12/03

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Writers' strike a boon to reality TV

US networks have nearly 40 shows stacked up like jetliners over Christmas Eve runways awaiting the go-ahead to land

LOS ANGELES—FOR FIVE YEARS, JOHN Langley tried and failed to sell a cinema verite-style TV series tracking police officers on patrol. Then came the 1988 Hollywood writers strike.

"That's when Fox bought 'Cops,' because a series with no narrator, no host, no script, no reenactments sounded very good to them at the time," recalled Langley, who just marked the show's 700th episode.

The nearly five-month '88 Writers Guild of America walkout didn't unleash a flood of reality, because filming on sitcoms and dramas had largely wrapped and because alternative shows had yet to become a trend.

But the current WGA strike fell smack during production as well as the Age of Reality, putting the brakes on scripted shows and giving networks a quick fix for holes. It remains to be seen how viewers—or the reality genre itself—will withstand the onslaught.

Networks have readied a slate of nearly 40 shows stacked up like jetliners over Christmas Eve runways awaiting the go-ahead to land.

Popularity

Given reality's popularity, many would have aired, strike or not, including Fox's blockbuster "American Idol," returning in January, and the next edition of ABC's hit "Dancing with the Stars." And how could CW say no to the "Pussycat Dolls Present: Girlicious" sequel or NBC rebuff "Celebrity Apprentice"?

But there's so much more in store, including ABC's "Dancing" spin-off, "Dance War: Bruno vs. Carrie Ann" (Jan. 7) and game show "Duel" (Dec. 17), and Fox's experiment "When Women Rule the World" (March 3).

Other new shows are hovering, including Fox's "The Moment of Truth"; ABC's "Here Come the Newlyweds"; CBS' "Million Dollar Password" with Regis Philbin; NBC's comedy game show "Amne$ia" with Dennis Miller, and CW's "Crowned: The Mother of All Pageants."

Bandage

That reality TV is being used as a bandage to try to stop the networks from bleeding viewers is a sharp irony for the union: It has been attempting to organize the producers and editors it argues actually "write" reality shows operating outside the WGA contract.

"Reality is a misnomer," said Jeff Hermanson, assistant executive director of the WGA, West. "It's really a euphemism for non-union TV. Networks should be embarrassed to put on shows where people who create them are treated in violation of California labor laws" and receive no benefits or overtime.

With the guild and studios resuming negotiations this week for the first time since the strike began, there was a glimmer of hope that the dispute, which centers on pay for digital distribution, might be resolved. That would allow production to resume on scripted shows.

Even so, reality programs could end up the hallmark of 2007-08 season, providing an unprecedented bonanza for those who create it.

According to producer Mark Cronin ("Flavor of Love," "The Surreal Life"), networks recognizing they must "protect themselves and fill their airspace" have ratcheted up demand for reality shows and pushed his company's pace from "50 mph to 70 mph."

While reality buffs may feel they're in heaven, it's a hellish scenario for admirers of "Grey's Anatomy," "30 Rock" and other scripted shows.

Even Cronin says reality should have its limits. "I don't feel like we have to destroy-and-conquer scripted television. It's not like that," he said. "I know people in the scripted world. I enjoy scripted shows."

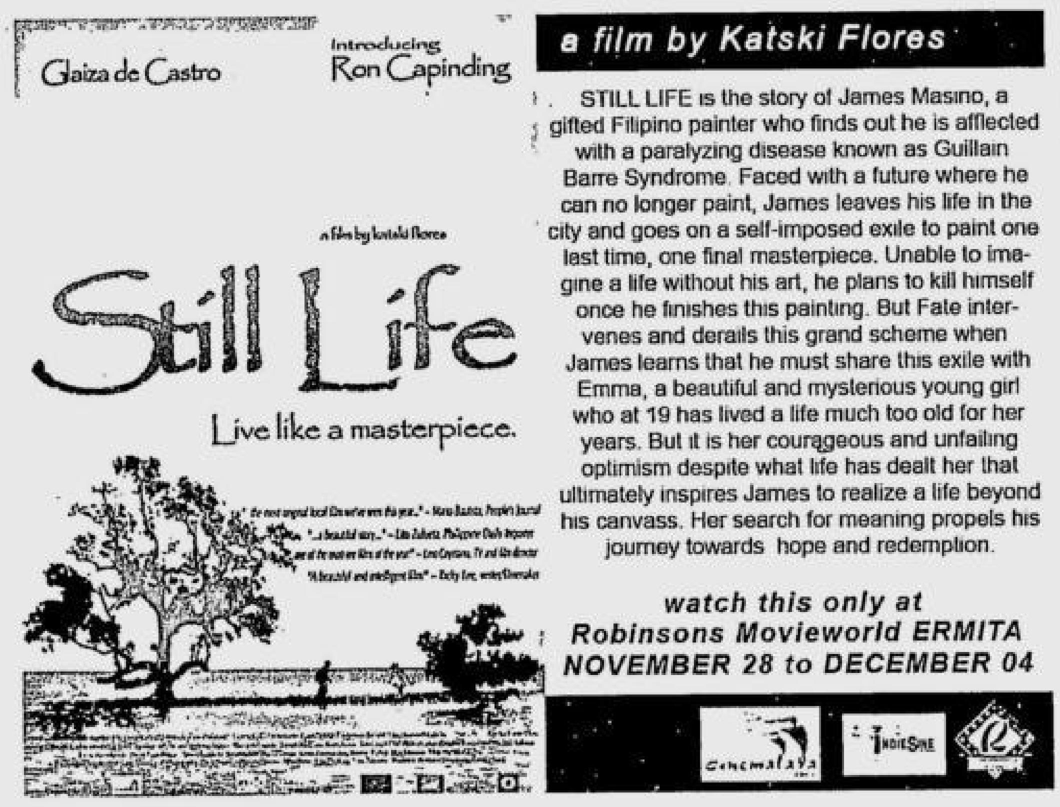
He also is wary of ultimately alienating viewers. "You could imagine a future that has so much reality that the nation clamors for scripted content after all the reality content they've seen," he said.

Cheaper

Marc Berman, analyst for Media Week Online, notes that reality has been part of broadcast TV since the start—"Candid Camera" was born in 1948. "The Real World" got the new-wave party going in 1992, with the genre exploding in 2000 when ABC launched (and then overdosed on) "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" and CBS struck "Survivor" gold.

Alternative TV is more entrenched than ever. "We opened the fall season with the most non-scripted programming ever seen in the history of television," Berman said. It's cheaper to produce and "a lot of it works, so why not do it?"

But "if the strike continues with no end in sight, and there's more and more reality, viewers will get fed up with it," he predicted. *AP*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Still Life
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a film by Katski Flores

STILL LIFE is the story of James Masino, a gifted Filipino painter who finds out he is affected with a paralyzing disease known as Guillain Barre Syndrome. Faced with a future where he can no longer paint, James leaves his life in the city and goes on a self-imposed exile to paint one last time, one final masterpiece. Unable to imagine a life without his art, he plans to kill himself once he finishes this painting. But Fate intervenes and derails this grand scheme when James learns that he must share this exile with Emma, a beautiful and mysterious young girl who at 19 has lived a life much too old for her years. But it is her courageous and unfailing optimism despite what life has dealt her that ultimately inspires James to realize a life beyond his canvass. Her search for meaning propels his journey towards hope and redemption.

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1 ENCHANTED
MTRCB GP
2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30

2 THE KINGDOM
MTRCB R-13 12:00
2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

3 HITMAN
MTRCB R-13
2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30

4 MR. MAGORIUM
MTRCB GP
1:00, 3:15 5:30, 7:45

PREMIERE THEATRE FRED CLAUS / BEOWULF
MTRCB: GP / PG-13
2:30, 5:00 / 7:30, 10:00

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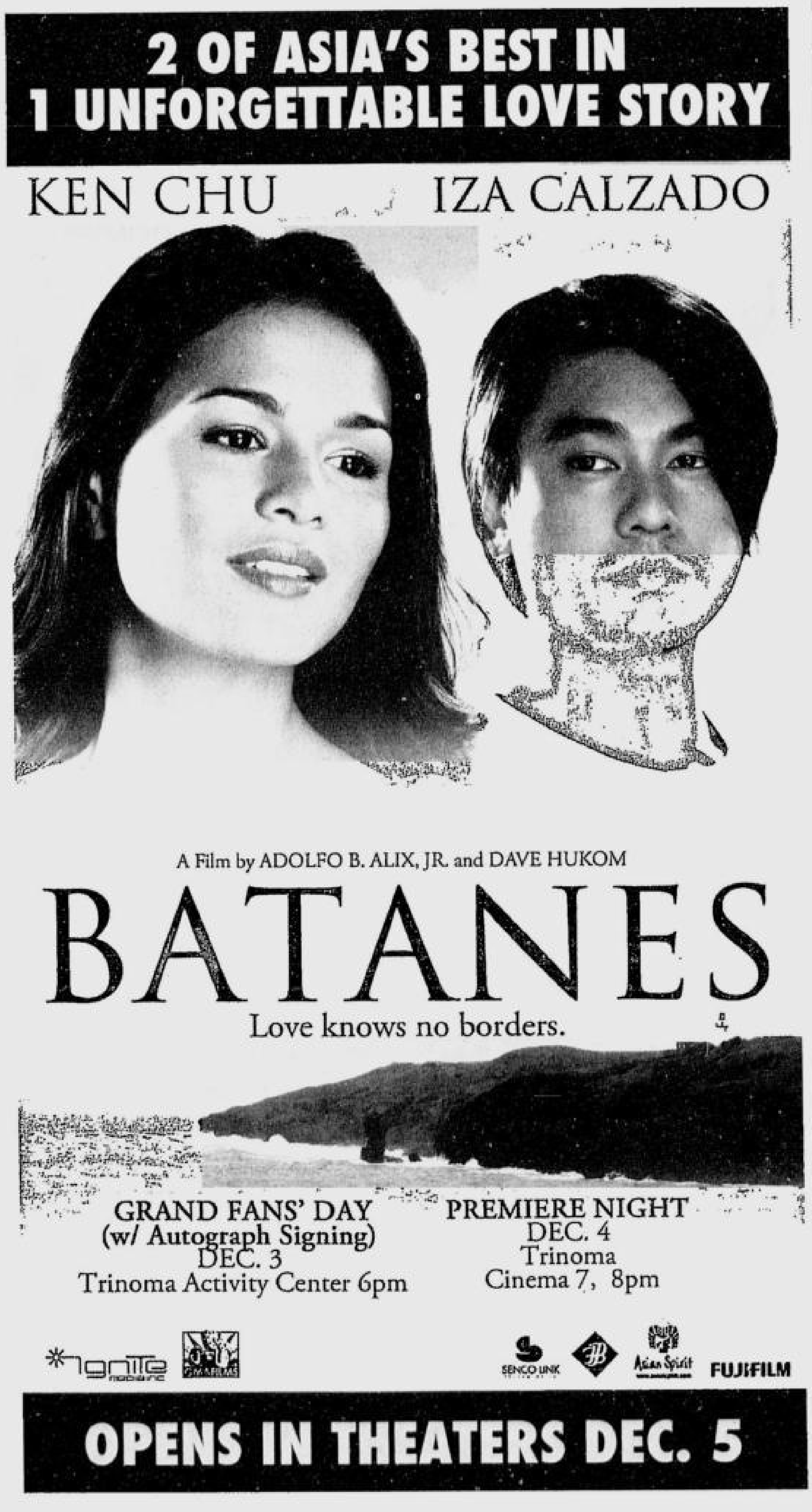
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FRED CLAUS G 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	ENCHANTED G 12:30,2:50,5:10, 7:30,9:50	MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER OF EMPORIUM G 11:30,1:40,3:50, 6:00,8:10,10:20
HITMAN R13 12:00,2:10,4:15,6:20, 8:25,10:30	BEOWULF PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20, 7:40,10:00	THE KINGDOM R13 12:30,3:00,5:30, 8:00,10:30

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2 (DOLBY) THE KINGDOM
3 (DOLBY) HITMAN
4 (DOLBY) MR MAGORIUM
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) FRED CLAUS / BEOWULF

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Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 THE KINGDOM
2 ENCHANTED
3 FRED CLAUS
4 PASUKOB

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 PASUKOB
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8604286, 8433954
1 GREEN PARADISE
2 PASUKOB
3 HITMAN
4 BEOWULF

THEATRES
1 GAME PLAN
2 PASUKOB
3 ONE MORE CHANCE

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 PASUKOB
3
4

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 HITMAN
2 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER
3 ENCHANTED
4 FRED CLAUS
5 THE KINGDOM
6 BEOWULF
7 THE KINGDOM
8 RESERVED
9 ONE MORE CHANCE
10 PASUKOB

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) PASUKOB
2 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (DOLBY) ENCHANTED
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

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Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 PASUKOB

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
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2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 GREEN PARADISE

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 PASUKOB
2 HITMAN
3 BEOWULF

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 ENCHANTED
2 BEOWULF

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 PASUKOB
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 ENCHANTED

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 PASUKOB
2 ONE MORE CHANCE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER
2 THE KINGDOM
3 ENCHANTED
4 FRED CLAUS

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 PASUKOB
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 PASUKOB
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 ENCHANTED

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 UNREST
3 PASUKOB
4 GAME PLAN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 ENCHANTED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 PASUKOB

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 PASUKOB

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING
2 BOOGEY MAN

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 BOOGEY MAN - 2
2 LIPSTIK
3 SEX SCANDAL
4 THE SEEKER: DARK IS RISING

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 LANGIT MO KALIGAYAHAN KO
3 ENCHANTED
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Fiesta World Mall
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2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Reese is highest paid actress in US

Angelina Jolie is next, then Cameron Diaz

REESE Witherspoon, up to $20 million per movie AP

ANGELINA Jolie REUTERS

RENEE Zelwegger

LOS ANGELES—EVEN THOUGH HER latest film, "Rendition," was a flop, Reese Witherspoon is a moneymaker.

The 31-year-old Academy Award winner commands $15 million to $20 million a movie, placing her at the top of The Hollywood Reporter's annual list of the highest-paid actresses.

Angelina Jolie came in second with similar salary demands, though the animated "Beowulf" earned the 32-year-old actress far less—just $8 million.

Nicole, Renee...

Cameron Diaz was third, with a $15 million-per-movie price tag. Nicole Kidman dropped to fourth place, two spots lower than last year, with an asking price of $10 million to $15 million a film.

Renee Zellweger and Sandra Bullock also get $10 million to $15 million paychecks. So does Julia Roberts, who hasn't appeared on the big screen since 2004. Her next film, "Charlie Wilson's War," is due in theaters in December.

Rounding out the top 10 are Drew Barrymore and Jodie Foster, who ask for $10 million to $12 million per project, and Halle Berry, who gets $10 million a picture.

New trend

"Traditionally, the top male actors—like Mel Gibson and Tom Cruise—make around $30 million per film, with a piece of the film's profits," Michelle Grabicki, associate features editor at the trade publication, told The Associated Press.

According to an AP-calculated look at executive pay, published in June, typical A-list stars such as Brad Pitt or Leonardo DiCaprio earn $20 million plus 20 percent of the gross box office take per movie.

"Men traditionally command a higher salary than the women," Grabicki said. "It's a newer trend, women getting a percentage of the back end. Cameron Diaz is catching up with the men."

Gold mine

Grabicki said Diaz made around $30 million for "Shrek 3" because of a generous share of the film's profits. She did not know the percentage.

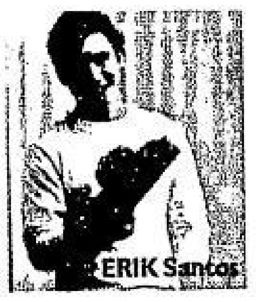
The Hollywood Reporter's salary list only looked at two actresses—Diaz and "Grey's Anatomy" star Katherine Heigl—in terms of what they also make with box office film profits included, Grabicki said.

The salary list appears in The Hollywood Reporter's "Women in Entertainment: Power 100" issue on newsstands today in the US. *AP*

SANDRA Bullock

CAMERON Diaz

EDU Manzano


ERIK Santos

More albums for Christmas

SPIN

ERIK SANTOS HAS A NEW ALbum, "All I Want This Christmas" (Star Records), which has nine tracks consisting of traditional Yuletide classics, as well as compositions by Louie Ocampo and Jonathan Manalo.

'Papaya Christmas'

Meanwhile, Edu Manzano's "World's Greatest Dance Steps" compilation album (Universal Records) has been repackaged to include six new tracks.

These are "Papaya Christmas," "Papaya '70s Mix," "Beautiful Girls," "Changing Times (Papi Pai Pa)," "Angels" and "Papaya/Chacarron Medley."

The compilation is an offshoot of old dance tracks remixed by DJ MOD and played on the TV show "Pilipinas: Game Ka Na Ba?" in which host Manzano banters with contestants and dances to the music.

Warner's latest

New releases from Warner Music Philippines:

James Blunt's "All the Lost Souls"; Garbage's "Absolute Garbage"; The Goo Goo Dolls' Greatest Hits Volume One The Singles"; and "Matchbox Twenty's "Exile on Mainstream."

Bocelli's best

"The Best of Andrea Bocelli: Vivere" (MCA) is one of more than 70,000 albums now available for downloading at FliptunesPlus, a Philippine-based music portal.

Other new titles include "Her Name is Nicole" (Nicole Scherzinger's debut album), "Coco" (Colbie Caillat) and "Long Road Out of Eden" (the Eagles' new studio album). Log on to www.fliptunesplus.net

Positive and negative values on TV

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AT A RECENT MEDIA FORUM, PARTICIpants discussed the values being overtly or subtly disseminated by some TV shows. We hope that their views, summarized here, will prompt TV workers to more responsibly regulate their work, so viewers' welfare can be upheld.

On the positive side, some participants cited some educational and religious programs for inspiring them to pay more attention to "things that really matter."

They also agreed that some news and public affairs shows helped them become more aware of what's happening in the nation and in the world.

For our part, we cited a couple of programs that conduct surveys and stage test challenges to see how people respond to different situations that are revelatory of human nature, or how Filipinos think and act.

On the negative side, quite a number of participants rapped dramatic *teleseryes* for being escapist, improbable and/or excessively violent. The violence is more of the verbal and psychological sort, but its effects are potentially injurious all the same.

The naysayers asked: Why must characters in TV dramas be so vindictive and hateful? Even family members keep plotting against each other, and lovers are never safe from third, fourth or even fifth parties!

The way these vindictive and double-faced characters behave, impressionable viewers may conclude that nobody can be trusted, so their faith in others could be shaken.

The fantasy *teleseryes* get criticized for being escapist and unreal, and their popularity is seen as indication of their soporific or pacifier effect on viewers. In other words, they are lulled into a state of pleasurable inaction and uncaring that could affect their attitudes and actuations in the real world.

Children's shows, too

QUITE surprisingly, some children's shows are also rapped for too fantastically creating a never-never land that has nothing to do with reality.

On the other hand, kiddie programs are also criticized for treating their young singing or acting talents like little adults, thus radically abridging the natural length of time kids need to properly grow up and develop.

And one participant fretted that so many TV commercials featuring child "salesmen" could make Filipino kids overly materialistic, acquisitive and competitive.

As for sitcoms and comedy programs, some of them are rapped for not really being funny, for their slapstick and verbal insult quotients, and for their "in" jokes that cast members enjoy but leave befuddled viewers in the unfunny dark.

Some participants also felt that there is too much emphasis on making money by joining TV game and quiz programs. Nothing wrong with making money, of course, but it's the "insulting" way that some contestants are treated that disturbed the participants.

In the light of these observations volunteered by concerned viewers, we trust that our TV people will, as the song lyric goes, "accentuate the positive (and) eliminate the negative" as for the values their shows dispense. Many young viewers are watching.

Movies on HBO

WATCH out for these promising movies on HBO this month: "Awakenings" with **Robert De Niro** and **Robin Williams**; "Babe: Pig in the City" with **James Cromwell**; "Back to the Future, 3" with **Michael J. Fox** and **Christopher Lloyd**; "Black Beauty" with **Sean Bean**; "Children of A Lesser God" with **William Hurt** and **Marlee Matlin**; "Crossing Delancey" with **Amy Irving** and **Peter Reigert**.

"Fat Man and Little Boy" with **Paul Newman** and **John Cusack**; "Fly Away Home" with **Anna Paquin** and **Jeff Daniels**; "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire"; "La Bamba" with **Lou Diamond Phillips**; "Little Nikita" with **Sidney Poitier** and **River Phoenix**; "Mrs. Harris" with **Annette Bening** and **Ben Kingsley**; "National Lampoon's European Vacation"; "Ordinary People" with Donald Sutherland and Mary Tyler Moore.

"Pale Rider" with **Clint Eastwood**; "Pride and Prejudice" with **Keira Knightley** and **Rosamund Pike**; "Reds" with **Warren Beatty** and **Diane Keaton**; "Rent" with Rosario Dawson and Taye Diggs; "Saving Private Ryan" with **Tom Hanks**; "The Education of Little Tree" with **James Cromwell**; and "The Nativity Story."

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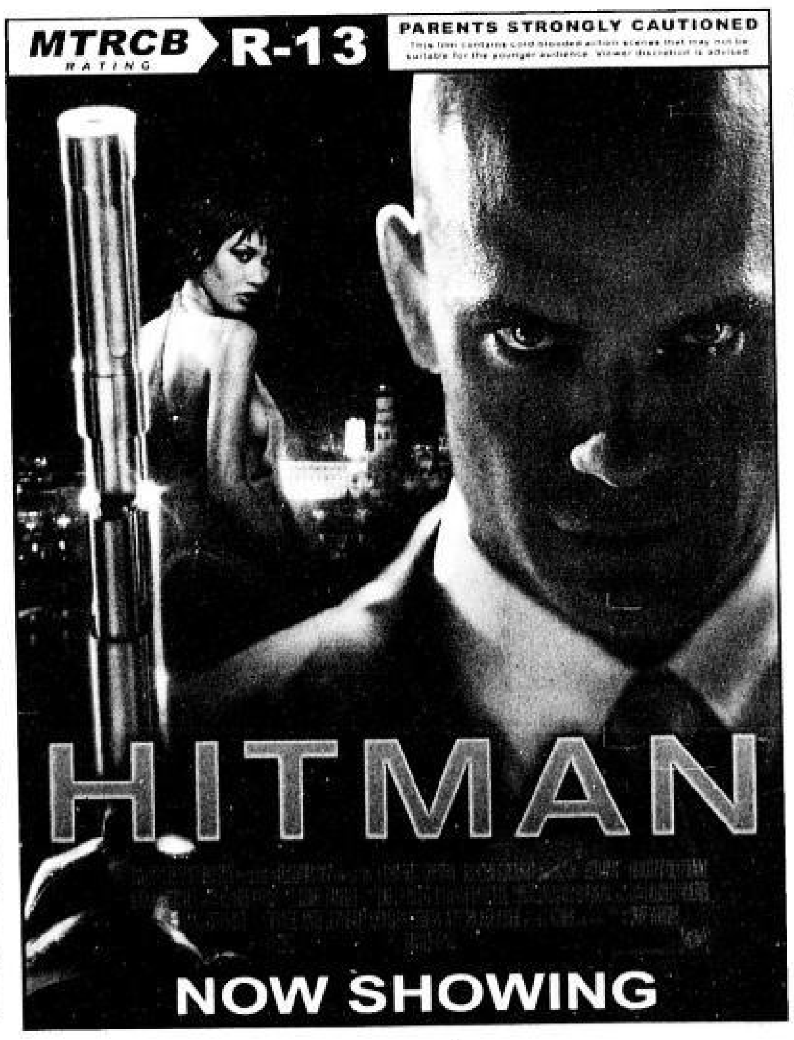
Richard Poon
Watch him bring back the classics, with hits from Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, Rod Stewart, Harry Connick, Jr and more...
Every Tuesday at 8PM
Eastwood Fuente Circle
FREE ADMISSION!

1 MR. MAGORIUM'S WONDER EMPORIUM
2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 10:55
G
2 THE KINGDOM
3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00
R-13
3 ENCHANTED
3:05, 5:35, 8:05, 10:35
G
4 FRED CLAUS
3:35, 6:05
G
HITMAN
8:35, 10:55
R-13


MTRCB RATING R-13
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
HITMAN
NOW SHOWING

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 ENCHANTED // HITMAN 11:00 , 1:20 , 3:40 // 6:00 , 8:20 , 10:35 GP / R-13
CINEMA 2 PASUKOB 11:20 , 1:35 , 3:50 6:05 , 8:20 , 10:35 PG-13
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 FRED CLAUS 11:45 , 2:25 , 5:00 7:35 , 10:10 GP
CINEMA 4 WONDER EMPORIUM 11:20 , 1:35 , 3:50 6:05 , 8:20 , 10:35 GP
CINEMA 5 THE KINGDOM 11:45 , 2:30 , 5:10 7:50 , 10:30 R-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

Nov. 30 , Dec. 01 , 7 & 8 , 2007	" Into the Woods " musical	8:00 PM
December 14 , 2007	Mark Herras	8:00 PM
December 15 , 2007	The Company	8:00 PM

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

December 04 , 2007	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

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EVERY SIN LEAVES A MARK.
R-13 VIGGO MORTENSEN NAOMI WATTS VINCENT CASSEL
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FROM ACCLAIMED DIRECTOR DAVID CRONENBERG
SONY Solar Entertainment Corporation FOCUS FEATURES
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